

Day Care Sampling Guidance

Day care facilities are typically required to collect bacteriological, lead and nitrite/nitrate samples prior to first opening for business. After that, they are required to submit bacteriological and nitrite/nitrate samples annually. Check with an Oklahoma Department of Human Services licensing agent for your facility's specific requirements. While these tests are not requirements of DEQ, our State Environmental Laboratory (SEL) can perform these tests for you using EPA-approved methods and guidelines for quality assurance.

Contact the SEL to discuss your needs and to schedule your day care sampling testing. We can provide you with sample bottles, instructions, mailing labels, forms, and prices. We may be reached at (405) 702-1000 or (866) 412-3057.

Sample Collection

If you must collect bacteria, nitrate or lead samples, collect the lead sample first then follow the bacteria and nitrate sample collection instructions. All samples accompanied by a total coliform collection must be received within 28 hours of collection.

Lead

One liter of water is required for this analysis. It must be received in a DEQ-approved sample bottle.

This sample should be collected from water that has been standing in the supply pipes for a minimum of six hours. Preferably, the sample will be taken from the cold water kitchen tap first thing in the morning or after returning home in the evening. This is called a **first draw** sample. Do not flush the water prior to filling the bottle. Deliver the sample to SEL as soon as possible at room temperature.

This test takes 2-3 weeks to complete.

Total Coliform/E. coli testing (Bacteriological)

The sample must be collected in a DEQ-approved sample bottle appropriate for this test. Sample results are typically available within 72 hours after we receive the sample. If additional testing was requested, all test results will be delivered upon completion of all requested testing.



Nitrite and Nitrate or Nitrite/Nitrate Combination

Confirm with your licensing agent if an individual test result is required for nitrite and nitrate, or if a combined test (nitrite+nitrate) will meet requirements, as this determines the type of collection kit.

About 8 ounces of water is needed for this test and the sample must be received in a DEQ-approved sample bottle.

The sample must be transported on ice, but not frozen. This test takes up to one week to complete.

Sample Delivery

DEQ prefers for samples to be hand-delivered to the SEL Sample and Data Management Section, 1st floor, during normal business hours; 8:00 am- 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, except state holidays.

If the samples cannot be hand-delivered to the laboratory within 28 hours of collection, ship the samples early the same day they were collected using overnight shipping. If possible, use a courier service (UPS, FedEx, etc.) to ship samples, as the courier will deliver directly to the DEQ building. USPS can be used, but be aware that the samples will be delivered to the local post office before being picked up and brought to the DEQ building. This delay can result in a sample being received at DEQ past the time allowed after collection and could result in the sample being cancelled.

If using a courier (UPS, FedEx, etc.) send samples to:

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
State Environmental Laboratory
707 N. Robinson Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

If using the US Postal Service, send samples to:

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
State Environmental Laboratory
P O Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Following completion of quality assurance activities, final test results will be distributed to the customer who delivered the sample to SEL via their preference (mail, email, fax). Customers may contact the SEL at (405) 702-1000, (866) 412-3057, or selsd@deq.ok.gov to check the status of a test.



Additional Information

Visit our webpage at <https://go.usa.gov/xQXbW> for additional information.

Home Water Testing fact sheet has additional information about private wells, well testing, recommended tests, and private water treatment options.

State Environmental Laboratory Analytical Fee Schedule contains current pricing for analytical services.