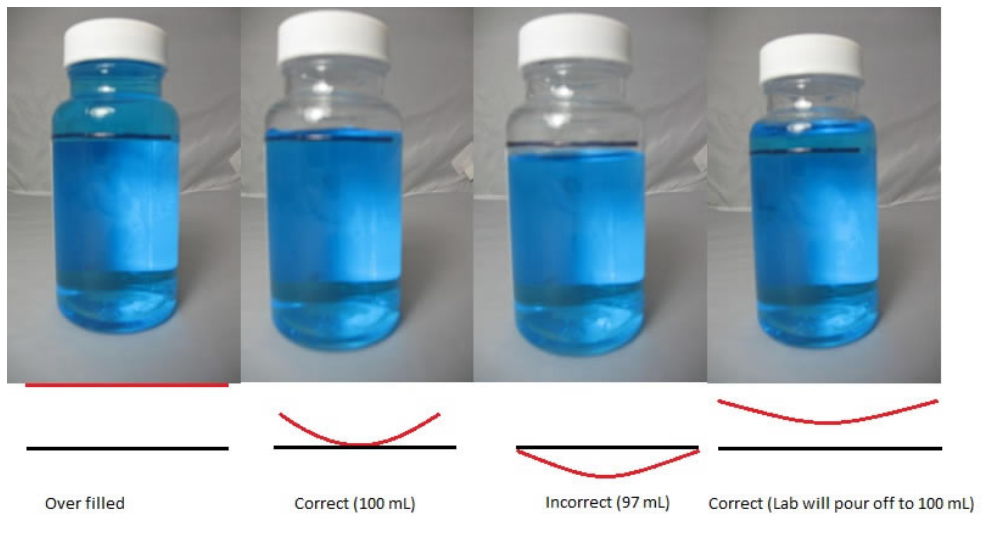


Compliance Corner

By Mackenzie Hales
Minnesota Department of Health
Community Water Supply Unit

30-hour holding time: Total Coliform samples should arrive at the lab within 30 hours after sampling. Due to U. S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements and studies pointing to significant bacteria die-off in water samples between 30 to 48 hours old, the Minnesota Department of Health must start moving towards upholding this limit. Community systems will begin receiving calls when samples are received more than 30 hours after they were taken. Please discuss shipping options with your assigned lab, and consider using another shipping method if your samples are consistently late. Proper planning can also help avoid exceeding the 30-hour limit. Check with local mail-service options about pick-up times, as this may help you plan your sampling schedule. For example, if the truck comes to pick up packages at 4 p.m., sample in the early afternoon instead of in the morning to reduce the amount of time the sample sits around outside of transport. Thanks for your cooperation!

Please properly fill your total coliform sample bottles! Make sure to fill sample bottles with the proper amount of water. We have been receiving a lot of samples with insufficient volume to run the required analysis. (See the photo for proper water levels.)



Disinfection residual lab form: Fill out all required fields on lab forms. If your system measures the chlorine residual, make sure to write this in the proper field on the lab form. The sampling time should be recorded, and the am/pm box must be checked. Systems may use military time, and if no am/pm is checked, the lab will assume that the time is written in military time.