

## Day Care Sampling Guidance

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services requires day care facilities to collect bacteriological, lead and nitrite/nitrate samples prior to opening for business and annually, thereafter. After that, they are required to submit bacteriological and nitrite/nitrate samples annually, <https://tinyurl.com/h3myahv6>. 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 [selsd@deq.ok.gov](mailto:selsd@deq.ok.gov).

### 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 lines prior to filling the bottle. Deliver the sample to SEL as soon as possible at room temperature.

### 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.



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## 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 4 ounces of water is needed for this test and the sample must be received in a DEQ-approved sample bottle that has been transported on ice, but not frozen. This test takes up to one week to complete.

## Sample Delivery

DEQ prefers samples to be hand-delivered to the SEL Sample and Data Management Section, 1st floor, during normal business hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through 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, such as UPS or FedEx 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 such as UPS or FedEx, 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 or fax. Customers may contact SEL at **(405) 702-1000** or [selsd@deq.ok.gov](mailto:selsd@deq.ok.gov) to check the status of a test.



## Additional Information

Visit the SELS website at <https://go.usa.gov/xQXbW> for additional information.

DEQ's Home Water Testing fact sheet has additional information about private wells, well testing, recommended tests, and private water treatment options, <https://tinyurl.com/592u4c4t>.

The SELS Laboratory Services and Fees webpage, <https://tinyurl.com/2s484scn> / , contains current pricing for analytical services.