

## **Guidance notes for the correct sample containers and volumes required when taking water samples for analysis.**

As I am sure you will appreciate it is vital that we have the correct sample to carry out water bacteriological analyses and that the accuracy of results is compromised if the sample is not handled in an appropriate way.

Run the tap for a few minutes and clean with disinfectant/ bleach before taking the sample.

Two types of investigations are commonly carried out.

The first is a general scan of potentially pathogenic organisms and includes TVCs at 22°C and 37°C, coliform, E. coli, Enterococci, Clostridia and Pseudomonas counts. This set of analyses appears as “Basic Micro analysis” on the sample submission form. We are looking at numbers of bacteria so it is important that the samples are kept cold (to stop bacteria multiplying) and delivered to the laboratory immediately or within 24hrs of sampling. If they have to be held overnight they should be refrigerated. A coolbox for transportation is a good idea.

The minimum volume for this set is 500ml and water sample bottles are available on request.

The second analysis available is for Legionella species. **Legionella** organisms prefer warmer conditions and because of this samples should **be held at ambient** rather than refrigerated as above. Do not put them in a cool box. It is also useful to wrap the bottle in tin foil so that they are not exposed to light. This analysis appears as “Legionella” on the sample submission form.

The minimum volume for this test is 1000ml and bottles are available on request.

**TO DO BOTH BASIC MICRO AND LEGIONELLA YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE 2 SAMPLES FROM EACH SAMPLE POINT – one in the large bottle (Legionella) and one in the small.**

If you have any queries please ring the laboratory prior to sampling. The telephone number is 01452 541663 and speak to Jenny Wookey or Leanne Russel.