

## **SANITIZATION STEPS**

### **FOR BACTERIA (TOTAL COLIFORM COUNT) TEST**

#### **SELECT THE TAP TO BE SAMPLED:**

- A faucet or small valve is preferred. Do NOT sample from hoses or drinking fountains.
- While sampling from a faucet regularly used for drinking water is ideal.
- If all possible, avoid taps with a swivel joint and/or leak at the stem as they may harbor bacteria.
- Remove faucet screens and aerators before sample collections as they may also contain bacteria.

#### **SANITIZE THE SELECTED TAP NOZZLE:**

- Prepare a sanitizing solution by adding one ounce of unscented liquid bleach to one gallon of water (or 1 tablespoon to half a gallon).
- Let the faucet run for one minute to flush and turn off.
- Apply the sanitizing solution to the nozzle by:
  - Putting the solution in a spray bottle, saturating the nozzle and waiting two minutes before proceeding.

**Or**

- Putting the solution in a plastic bag and placing over the nozzle. Hold the top of the bag tightly around the tap. To flush the solution in and out of the tap, squeeze and release the bag for two minutes. A fresh solution bag must be used for each tap sampled.

#### **FLUSH OUT THE SANITIZED TAP:**

- The collected sample is to be representative of the water in the main, meaning the piping between the tap and water main must be adequately flushed out. To do this, open the tap fully and allow it to run for 10 minutes per Ohio Department of Health requirement.

#### **REDUCE THE TAP FLOW:**

- To allow filling the sample bottle without splashing / overflow removing its treated contents.

#### **SANITIZE YOUR HANDS:**

- An over-the-counter hand sanitizer will be sufficient to minimize transfer of bacteria from your hands to the sample bottle.

#### **REMOVE THE CAP FROM THE SAMPLE BOTTLE:**

- Taking care to avoid touching the mouth of the bottle or the inside of the cap to minimize potential contamination.

#### **WITHOUT RINSING IT OUT, FILL THE SAMPLE BOTTLE TO THE NECK:**

- Fill the sample bottle fully without overflowing & immediately cap tightly.

#### **REFRIGERATE THE FILLED SAMPLE BOTTLE IF RETAINED OVERNIGHT:**

- Assures the viability of the sample if it is taken after 12 Noon on Tuesday or Thursday but not returned to the Environmental Health Department until prior to 9:00 AM the following morning.