



Maine Environmental Laboratory

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2021 Short Holding Time Analyses

Samples that are to be tested for the following parameters have short “hold times” (the amount of time that may pass between the end of sample-taking and the start of analysis), and extra care should be taken to get them to us as soon as possible.

While we always make every effort to analyze your samples within the listed holding times, we cannot guarantee analysis within short holding times *without at least 24 hours notice.*

Samples that are analyzed beyond the recommended hold times may not be valid for compliance purposes. Samples received beyond their hold times will not be analyzed without the express permission of the client.

	8-hour holding time
Wastewater <i>E. coli</i> Fecal Coliform Enterococci	Always call us at least 24 hours <i>in advance of sampling</i> and deliver samples as soon as possible! SORRY, WE CANNOT ACCEPT BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAYS! Generally, the lab can receive bacteria samples Monday-Thursday between 8am and 4pm. Call ahead for exceptions.
	24-hour holding time
BOD₅ CBOD₅	Always call us <i>in advance of sampling</i> and deliver samples as soon as possible. We routinely analyze for BOD₅ on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Therefore, it is ideal to sample Tuesday afternoons through Friday mornings.* If you are unable to deliver samples to the lab the same day they are sampled, please sample as late in the day as possible (after 2pm) and arrange for next day-AM delivery (to arrive at the lab within 20 hours of sampling). <i>*See calendar on reverse for exceptions and call to discuss options if your schedule conflicts with blackout dates. Tuesday samples should be taken as late in the day as possible since they will not actually be analyzed until Wednesday. Friday samples must be received at the lab by 3pm unless prior arrangement is made.</i>
	30-hour holding time
Drinking Water Total Coliform <i>-E. coli</i>	Always call us <i>in advance of sampling</i> and deliver samples to the lab within 24 hours. SORRY, WE CANNOT ACCEPT BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAYS! Generally, the lab can receive bacteria samples Monday-Thursday between 8am and 4pm. Call ahead for exceptions.
	48-hour holding time
Orthophosphate Nitrate Nitrite	Always call us at least 24 hours <i>in advance of sampling</i> and deliver samples as soon as possible. We routinely analyze for Nitrate and Nitrite Monday - Thursday mornings. Therefore, it is ideal to sample Monday through Wednesday , if possible. Please call ahead and we will make every effort to work within your sampling schedule. Thursday PM and Friday samples are accepted by prior arrangement only.