



# Maine Environmental Laboratory

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## 2025 Short Hold Times

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-collection and the start of analysis), and extra care should be taken to get them to the lab as soon as possible

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

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

<b>8 -hour Hold Time</b>	
<u>Wastewater:</u> <i>E. coli</i> Fecal Coliform <u>Surface Water:</u> <i>Enterococci</i>	<p><b>Always call us at least 24 hours in advance</b> of sampling and deliver samples as soon as possible!</p> <p><b><u>WE CANNOT ACCEPT BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAYS.</u></b> The lab can receive bacteria samples Monday-Thursday between 8am and 4pm. Call ahead for exceptions.</p>
<b>24-hour Hold Time</b>	
BOD5 CBOD5	<p><b>Always call us in advance of sampling</b>, and deliver samples as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>We routinely analyze for BOD5 on Wednesday, 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></p> <p><i>*See 2024 BOD calendar 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 2pm unless prior arrangement is made.</i></p>
<b>30-hour Hold Time</b>	
<u>Drinking Water:</u> Total Coliform <i>E. coli</i>	<p><b>Always call us in advance of sampling</b> and deliver samples to the lab within 24 hours.</p> <p><b><u>WE CANNOT ACCEPT BACTERIA SAMPLES ON FRIDAYS.</u></b> The lab can receive bacteria samples Monday-Thursday between 8am and 4pm. Call ahead for exceptions.</p>
<b>48-hour Hold Time</b>	
Color Orthophosphate Legionella Nitrate Nitrite	<p><b>Always call us in advance of sampling</b> and deliver samples to the lab within 24 hours</p> <p><i>We routinely analyze for Nitrate and Nitrite Monday-Thursday mornings. 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.</i></p>