

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THERMAL PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS**

Many of your samples are required to be at or below a certain temperature when received at a laboratory (lab). Samples that do not meet the thermal preservation (temperature) requirement CANNOT be accepted for compliance purposes. Temperature limits apply to all samples EXCEPT metals, lead/copper, and routine total coliform bacteria. Many samples collected in 2017 were rejected because of this issue. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recommends following the steps below to help ensure your samples are accepted.

1. Collect samples early within the monitoring period. If resampling is needed, you will still have time to get it done before the due date to avoid a monitoring violation.
2. If your sample is rejected or coded as being above the required temperature, resample as soon as possible. Keep extra bottles on hand in case resamples are needed.
3. If you use the DEQ lab, check the box at the top of the Sample Request Form that will direct them not to analyze samples that will not be accepted for compliance. This will save you the cost of having to pay for the sample twice. Check with private labs for their own procedures.
4. Freeze the ice packs for a minimum of 24 hours prior to sample collection.
5. Refrigerate samples for a minimum of 1 hour when possible prior to sending to the lab.
6. Use sufficient frozen gel packs when packing the samples to maintain the required sample temperature of 6 degrees C (42.8 F), or below, when samples arrive at the lab. More samples in a box will need more gel packs.
7. Ship samples with gel packs so they arrive at the lab within 24 hours of collection.
8. Check with the vendor you are using for your shipping to be sure they can deliver within 24 hours.
9. If possible, deliver samples to the lab in person within 24 hours of collection. Samples received within this time frame will be accepted even if above the required temperature, *but only if they are adequately cooled, as described above*. Samples not on ice will be rejected or coded.
10. If you deliver the samples to the lab in person, remove the samples from coolers and give them directly to personnel, do not leave them in the lobby. Request temperature results while there so you will know immediately if resampling will be necessary.