

The Huntington County Department of Health offers, through an independent laboratory, several water tests for residential customers.

Water sampling containers are available at the department and can be picked up during normal business hours – Monday – Friday, 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Lab couriers pick up samples dropped off at the department on Tuesday afternoons around 2:00 p.m. We ask that samples be dropped off at the department no later than 12 noon on Tuesday and recommend collection of the water sample should take place on Tuesday mornings to ensure a fresh test sample.

When collecting a sample of drinking water, care should be taken to collect a pure sample that has not been altered by a water softener or water filter.

HML Laboratories of Muncie provide testing for residents of Huntington County. Available tests include:

**COLIFORM** – tests for the presence of coliform bacteria in your water supply that is indicative of fecal pollution.

**FLUORIDE**—Fluoride levels of 4.0 mg/L or more make act as a direct cellular poisons by interfering with calcium metabolism and enzyme mechanisms.

**NITRATE** – Levels of nitrates exceeding 10 mg/L as nitrogen have been shown to cause methemoglobinemia in infants. This results in oxygen deprivation, which may be harmful to the developing nervous system of young children or cause of death by suffocation.

**SULFATE** – Ingestion of sulfates in excess of 260 mg/L may cause pain in the abdomen, gastrointestinal irritation, vomiting, water or bloody diarrhea, tenesmus (painful straining to empty bowels or bladder with the evacuation of them) and collapse.

**SULFIDE** – Concentrations in excess of 0.1 mg/L may cause irritation and sensory loss. Ingestion of higher concentrations may cause irritation of the gastrointestinal tract, renal injury, anoxic (absence of oxygen) effects and damage to cells of the central nervous system. Sulfides have the odor of rotten eggs and appear as black particles in the water.

**NITRITE** – Levels of nitrites in excess of 1 mg/L may cause headaches, flushing of the skin, vomiting, dizziness, collapse, marked fall of blood pressure, cyanosis, coma and respiratory paralysis.

**IRON** – Iron limits of 0.3 mg/L were established as secondary standards because of their aesthetic problems in staining clothes and appliances. In dairy sanitation it should be less than 0.1 mg/L.

**SODIUM** – The acceptable limit of sodium in the water is 20 mg/L. Sodium is a problem for individuals with cardiovascular diseases.

**LEAD** – Concentrations in excess of 0.015 mg/L may result in black stools, a metallic taste, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, collapse and coma. It is particularly harmful to children for it may lower intelligence.

Other tests are available through HML Laboratories, contact the Huntington County Health Department for more information.