

WATER SAMPLES- COLLECTION OF POOL FILTER BACKWASH AND POOL WATER

Water samples can be tested for pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium*. These samples can then potentially be linked to clinical isolates from individuals who visited a recreational water venue associated with cluster of cases. Collecting a sample of the backwash from a pool filter is ideal because it increases the chances of detecting the parasite if it was present during the previous filter run.

Water samples for testing need to be submitted to CDC through the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory Division's Environmental Microbiology section. This activity must be coordinated with the New Mexico Environment Department's Pool Program Manger and the New Mexico Department of Health in the event of a suspected or confirmed outbreak ONLY.

Collect backwash samples before the pool is hyperchlorinated. To collect a backwash sample and submit it to CDC for testing, please follow the steps below:

1. Work with the pool operator to locate the port or site where backwash can be hand collected.
2. Have the pool operator begin the filter backwash cycle.
3. After the effluent becomes murky and turbid, collect 1L of filter backwash in a clean container.
4. Add 50 mg of sodium thiosulfate/L of backwash water to deactivate any chlorine in the water.
5. If sodium thiosulfate is unavailable, send the backwash to CDC as soon as possible instead of waiting to obtain and add sodium thiosulfate.
6. Refrigerate the sample until it is shipped.
7. Ship the sample with cold packs. DO NOT FREEZE the samples.

Collect pool water samples before the pool is hyperchlorinated. To collect a pool water sample and submit it to CDC for testing, please follow the steps below:

1. If possible, collect at least 20L of pool water in a clean container. Collapsible containers (i.e., "cubitainers") are useful for this.
2. Add 50 mg of sodium thiosulfate/L to deactivate any chlorine in the water.
3. If sodium thiosulfate is unavailable, send the water to CDC as soon as possible instead of waiting to obtain and add sodium thiosulfate.
4. Refrigerate the sample until it is shipped.
5. Ship the sample with cold packs. DO NOT FREEZE the samples.