

Office of Environmental Health Drinking Water Lab FAQs

Call: (907) 434-2851 or **Email:** oeh-all@nshcorp.org
Hours of Operation: Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

What services does the lab provide?

The lab offers bacterial testing for public water systems in the Norton Sound/Bering Straits Region. Water samples are tested for coliform bacteria contamination. The lab does not test for other contaminants.

Can the lab test well water or other drinking water sources for private individuals?

Not yet. OEH hopes to provide coliform bacteria testing for private wells and traditional drinking water in the future. Keep in mind, drinking water should be tested for more than bacterial contaminants. Nitrate, arsenic, lead, and copper are some common contaminants.

Will the lab offer other testing?

OEH does not plan to expand testing services beyond coliform bacteria. Other testing is significantly more complex and cannot be supported in our lab.

How long before results are available? How much does it cost?

It takes a minimum of 24-48 hours for finalized results. OEH charges \$25 per sample to cover base expenses.

How can my community use these services?

Check to see if your public water system has existing contracts with other labs. Services with other labs may be pre-paid. If not, submit a 30-day written notice of intent to utilize the OEH lab services to get signed up.

