

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Environmental Laboratory West Palm Beach operates to support the Division of Environmental Public Health in Palm Beach County and provides microbiological testing services to the public .

The laboratory monitors water by microbiological analyses to assess such things as water potability and contamination related to health hazards for the public.

Bacteriological testing includes analyses for Total Coliform and *E. coli* in drinking water and Enterococci in non-potable water.

The FDOH Environmental Laboratory West Palm Beach is certified by the Florida DOH Bureau of Public Health Laboratories and compliant with the National Environmental Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Standards.



FDOH Environmental Laboratory West Palm Beach

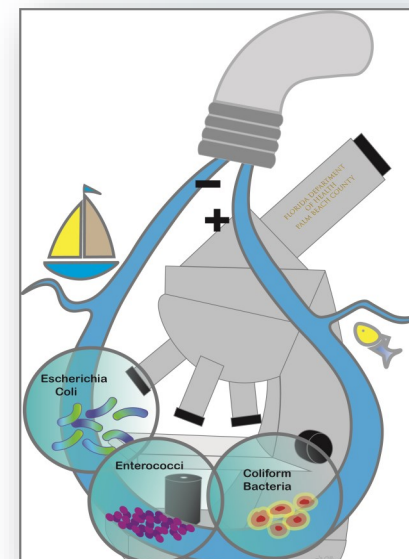
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Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County

Environmental Laboratory West Palm Beach



*Laboratory services contribute to a
healthier Florida one test at a time!*



The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Environmental Laboratory in West Palm Beach began operations in April of 2022. The laboratory is certified to perform microbiological testing on water. Our trained staff analyzes water samples for bacteriological contamination in both drinking water and coastal water.

The FDOH in Palm Beach County routinely monitors beach water for Enterococci bacteria, which is an indicator of fecal pollution. If these bacteria are present in high concentrations in coastal water, and are ingested while swimming or enter the skin through a cut or sore they may cause human disease, infections and/or rashes.

The Department also monitors drinking water for fecal contamination by analyzing for Total Coliform and *E.coli* bacteria. Although the ground water is naturally clean and generally free of contaminants, contamination with microbes and chemicals can occur which will cause people to become ill if water is ingested. Illness may be severe or potentially fatal for those with a weakened immune system, the very young or the elderly. The FDOH strongly recommends that private well owners be aware of these risks and test their water at least once a year.

Our laboratory is certified to perform analysis for fecal contamination in water, and staff is available to collect samples if requested.

Services and Pricing

Fees for laboratory services as established in Chapter 11, Article II, Section 11-24 of the Palm Beach County Code

Water Sample Collection (per site):

Coastal water collection: \$100.00

Potable or non-potable water collection: \$75.00

Water Sample Analysis (per sample):

Coastal water sample analysis (Enterococci): \$50.00

Drinking water sample analysis
(Total Coliform/*E.coli*): \$30.00

Hours of Operation

Sample drop off and request for sample collection:

Monday to Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Results

Results for Total Coliform, *E.coli* and Enterococci are available in 24 to 28 hours. Total Coliform & *E.coli* are reported as either **present** or **absent** while Enterococci is reported as the **most probable number (MPN)**. The client is notified immediately of results present for Total Coliform and/or *E.coli* and will be provided with instructions on how to disinfect their plumbing system and/or well. If coastal water is found to be greater than the Beach Action Value (BAV) of 70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of sample water, then client will be notified immediately and FDOH staff will provide health advisory information.

Additional Information

For additional information on testing services you may contact our lab directly at **561-822-4553** or email:

EPHLaboratory@flhealth.gov

Websites

- * [Laboratory Services | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/laboratory-services)
- * [Environmental Health | Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health)
- * [NELAP Certified Laboratory Search | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-protection)
- * [Private Well Testing | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/private-well-testing)
- * [Ordinance-2022-009.pdf \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/ordinance-2022-009)
- * [The NELAC Institute \(TNI\) \(nelac-institute.org\)](https://www.nelac-institute.org)

