



**West Hants Regional Municipality  
Standard Operating Procedure  
Water Quality Testing for  
Recreational Swimming**

<b>Approval Date:</b>	<b>March 19, 2024</b>	<b>Reviewed By:</b>	<b>Kathy Kehoe, Director, Community Development</b>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	<b>August 6, 2024</b>	<b>Approved By:</b>	 <b>Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer</b>

**1. Objective**

To provide guidelines on the collection of lake water samples for testing to determine water quality for recreational swimming.

**2. Applicability**

This Procedure applies to four recreational swimming areas located adjacent the following municipal recreation parks: Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch and Windsor Waterfront Park (Lake Pesaquid), Kempt Quarry Recreation Site, Falls Lake Park (Pioneer Drive) and Armstrong Lake Park; between July 1<sup>st</sup> & August 31<sup>st</sup>. Testing is solely for advisory purposes and is not regulated by the provincial or federal government. The results are to be used as a guide only and for public awareness purposes. The locations identified are not designated beaches through the Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change Department and West Hants Regional Municipality is not required to complete regular testing. However, although not required by federal or provincial guidelines, West Hants Regional Municipality takes a higher level of care for the community and collects water samples at various water access points for recreational swimming purposes.

**3. Definitions**

- a. "Lake", "Pond" or "Waterbody" means a body of water.
- b. "Community Development Staff" hired by the Municipality to take the water samples.
- c. "Manager" means the Manager of Parks & Recreation Facilities, or their designee.
- d. "Director" means the Director of Community Development, or their designee.
- e. "Supervisor" means the Supervisor of Parks & Grounds under the Community Development Department.
- f. "Summer Season" means the period July 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup>.

- g. “CSO” – means combined sewer overflow.

#### **4. References**

- a. Guidelines for Canadian Recreation Water Quality, Summary Document Health Canada Summary Document 2024

#### **5. Sample Frequency**

- a. Water quality samples shall be collected a minimum of 48 hours prior to the start of the Summer Season and one sample bi-weekly collected during the Summer Season. Bi-weekly samples will be collected on the Monday of each week. If a statutory holiday falls on a Monday, the sample event for that week will be collected on the Tuesday.
- b. If a water quality test report showing E. coli contaminant level above 235 units (regardless of the geometric mean), additional samples shall be collected as follows:
  - I. An initial sample collected as soon as practical but, in any event, not later than three (3) days after receipt of the adverse water quality test report.
  - II. A second sample collected a minimum of 12 hours after the preceding sample.
  - III. If the water quality test report for either of the first two samples shows E. coli contaminant level above 235 units, additional samples shall be collected a minimum of 12 hours after the preceding sample until two (2) consecutive water quality test reports show E. coli contaminant level below 235 units.
- c. Water quality samples shall be collected from Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch and Windsor Waterfront Park (Lake Pesaquid) in the event of a known CSO that occurs between June 1st and September 30th at the WLS1 lift station located on the Windsor side of Lake Pesaquid. When a CSO is reported on the weekend or holiday when staff are not available for testing or the laboratory is not open for analysis, the Lake area will be assumed as having the equivalent of a positive test result or an E. Coli contaminant level above 235 units. This assumption will be maintained until proper testing is conducted as noted above.

#### **6. Sample Locations**

Community Development staff shall collect a sample from both the eastern and western boundaries of the known swim areas in the following locations that are maintained by the West Hants Regional Municipality: Falmouth Mini Park, Falmouth Boat Launch and Windsor Waterfront Park (Lake Pesaquid); Kempt Quarry Recreation Site; Falls Lake Park (Pioneer Drive) and Armstrong Lake Park.

#### **7. Sample Collection Procedure**

Water quality samples will be collected by Community Development staff and will be taken from the locations designated per Subsection 6 above.

- a. Prior to collecting the sample, the person collecting the sample shall ensure the following.
  - I. They have clean rubber boots, laboratory paperwork, and sterilized Bacterial Sample Bottles (check the expiry date) to collect the samples.

- II. Check lab day and time deadlines for sample acceptance to ensure meeting 24-hour criterion.
- b. Samples will be collected as follows.
  - I. The person collecting the sample will put on clean rubber boots.
  - II. Walk out until the approximately one (1) foot deep.
  - III. If the bottle has a plastic seal, hold the sample container at the base and remove the seal around the cap before attempting to open the bottle.
  - IV. Remove the cap with your free hand. Do NOT touch the inside of the bottle or bottle lip.
  - V. Continue to hold the cap in one hand with the inside facing down while the bottle is being filled. Do NOT touch the interior of the cap or lay it down. Do NOT breathe on the bottle or cap.
  - VI. Do NOT rinse the bottle.
  - VII. The sample must be placed in the designated cooler with ice packs immediately and stored at a temperature between 1°C and 10°C (do not freeze) until it can be delivered to the laboratory.
  - VIII. Complete the laboratory requisition form in full.
  - IX. Transport the designated cooler to the sample drop off location identified or directly to the laboratory as soon as practical (i.e. by 11:00 am the day of the sample collection) but in any event not later than 24 hours after collection.
  - X. The person who delivered the designated cooler to the laboratory shall return all paperwork to the Supervisor, Parks and Grounds or designee.

## **8. Notices**

All laboratory test results are to go to the Director, Community Development, Manager, Parks and Recreation Facilities and the Supervisor, Parks & Grounds, or designee.