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Kentucky Division of Water Drinking Water Sample Collection Recommendations For Lead & Copper April 2020

Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) has prepared the following guidance to assist residents and facility personnel with drinking water sample collection for lead and copper. These guidelines are strongly recommended to ensure sample results are representative, defensible and meet their intended use in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Lead and Copper ONLY Sampling Procedures¹

- Whenever possible use sampling supplies from the laboratory (containers, preservatives, etc.)
- Select an indoor “COLD” water faucet (kitchen or bathroom) for sampling that is free from water softeners or filters.
- DO NOT remove any screens or aeration devices.
- If collecting a “first-draw²” sample for lead/copper, allow the water to sit undisturbed in-residence water pipes for at least six hours.
- DO NOT intentionally flush the water line before the start of the six-hour period.
- Use a wide-mouth 1 Liter bottle under the faucet.
- Open the faucet and collect the first water out of the tap.
- Collect sample by filling bottle to the prescribed volume, properly cap and label. Do not rinse bottle prior to filling (supplied bottles are pre-cleaned and may contain an added preservative).
- Make sure to include the sample date and time, along with the name or initials of the person taking the sample(s). Write these on the bottle or label and transfer the information to the chain of custody.

COMPLETE CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM (PWS) OR THEIR LABORATORY WITH ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION (SEE ATTACHED EXAMPLE). IN THE “RELINQUISHED BY” SECTION PRINT YOUR NAME, INCLUDE THE DATE/TIME AND SIGN YOUR NAME.

CONTACT THE PWS FOR PICKUP AND LET THEM KNOW THE DESIGNATED SECURE LOCATION YOU PLAN TO LEAVE THE SAMPLE(S) AND CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY FORM. PLACE THE SAMPLE(S) AND PAPERWORK IN THE AGREED UPON LOCATION.

¹EPA Quick Guide to Drinking Water Sample Collection (September 2016) https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/drinking_water_sample_collection.pdf

²First draw sample means a one-liter sample of tap water, collected in accordance with §141.86(b)(2), that has been standing in plumbing pipes at least 6 hours and is collected without flushing the tap.

