

# **BCDHE Bathing Beach Water Sampling Standard Operating Procedure**

## **BEFORE TAKING YOUR SAMPLE:**

- Use a permanent marker to label the SIDE of the sample bottle with your association name, town, and date. Make sure the association name is written on the TOP and SIDE of the sample bottle. Please make sure your writing is neat and decipherable.
- Fill out the field data form with all required information and observations:
  - Date Collected
  - Collected By
  - Sample Time
  - Water Clarity (Circle “cloudy” only if you are unable to see your feet in three feet of water)
  - Water Temp (if possible)
  - Bather Density (# of people IN the water)
  - Observations of Bathing Water (see “observations” at the bottom of the page; use the key to record your observations)
  - Current Weather Conditions (at the bottom of the page)

**\*\*IMPORTANT:** Please do not forget to record the sample time.\*\*

## **SAMPLING PROCEDURE:**

NOTE: Please take the sample as close to high tide as possible. This may require an early morning sample. See <http://www.boatma.com/tides/Cape-Cod.html> for high and low tide times.

1. Wade to a depth of 3 feet at the designated sampling location. It is important to collect samples in areas of greatest bather load (typically straight out from the lifeguard chair). Samples should be taken at the same locations each week.
2. Carefully remove cap of sterile sample bottle and hold bottle near its base. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the inside of the sample bottle.
3. Holding the bottle at a 45° angle, open end down, quickly plunge the bottle 12 inches under the surface.
4. Collect 100ml of water in bottle.
5. **Make sure there is some air space when the sample top is replaced; do this by pouring a small amount of water off the top of the sample after collection.**
6. Keep sample cold in cooler and refrigerator until analysis (do not leave sample exposed to sunlight).
7. If using ice cubes in cooler make sure sample is not submerged in the melt water – also take care to keep sample cups upright.

***All samples must be delivered to the Dennis Health Department prior to 11am each Wednesday. The sample MUST be taken on Wednesday (the same day it is to be analyzed), or else it will be considered invalid.***