



28 Executive Drive, Norwalk, OH 44857 | P: 419-668-1652 | [environmental@huroncohealth.com](mailto:environmental@huroncohealth.com) | F: 567-244-3201

## Septic System Maintenance Sample Request Form

Septic systems allow people in rural areas to dispose of their household sewage in a manner that protects health and the health of the environment. Most sewage systems have a life span of 25-30 years before they start to fail; however, many issues can lead to premature system failure such as blocked pipes, saturated soils, crushed tile, improper location, improper maintenance, poor original design and poor installation.

When a system is failing, the sewage is not properly treated and the effluent will have a high level of fecal coliform and E.Coli present. High bacteria levels indicate that the system is not treating the sewage properly and is causing a public health nuisance. Fecal sampling can be used to determine whether a system is operational or if it is causing a nuisance.

For a sewage system that has an NPDES permit through the Ohio EPA, annual wastewater sampling is required. An NPDES permit is required if you have an off-lot discharging sewage treatment system. These systems discharge directly into the waters of Ohio. Huron County Public Health collects and reports these samples annually.

Contact the Environmental Public Health Division at 567-244-3239 with any questions.

### Why would I need to sample my sewage?

1. As a requirement of the Operation and Maintenance Permit for an off-lot discharging sewage system. Or, if a new connection to an existing off-lot discharging system or an existing system is being investigated for a public health nuisance, a sample(s) may be required.
  - A fecal sample is required to prove the current system is not causing a public health nuisance.
    - As per the state of Ohio, a minimum of two (2) samples must be collected at least twenty-four (24) hours apart.
  - If you choose to have another certified lab collect and process your sample, you **MUST** notify HCPH with the time/date of the sampling. Strict sampling and chain-of-custody procedures shall be followed.
2. Sample for an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharging Elimination System) Permit
  - NPDES is a permit program that controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into the waters of the State of Ohio. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. Some homeowners, industrial, municipal, and other facilities must obtain permits if their sewage effluent discharges go directly to surface waters.
  - Effluent sampling is required annually by the EPA and is collected by Huron County Public Health.

### Preparation Instructions

- Do **NOT** pump the tank. Fecal sampling requires flow to be established for at least 3 months.
- The system inspection well must be accessible. The sample cannot be taken from any other portion of the system.
  - If the inspection well cannot be located, a new inspection well shall be installed no greater than ten (10) feet from the end of the off-lot system. **The inspection well shall be constructed allowing for a minimum of eight (8) inches of fall.** This work must be performed by a registered STS installer.



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**Types of Effluent Samples:**

**Fecal Colony Count Sample**

A fecal colony count sample tests for the presence of fecal coliform bacteria and E. coli. The lab will perform a colony count for both bacteria and provide you with the number of bacterial colonies found to be discharging from your system.

- **Fecal Colony Count Sample (A):** One (1) fecal colony count sample will be collected.
- **Fecal Colony Count Sample (B):** Two (2) fecal colony count samples will be collected. This sample is required if you are trying to prove that your current sewage system is not creating a public health nuisance. Samples must be taken at least twenty-four (24) hours apart.

**NPDES Sample**

The Ohio EPA has specific annual sampling requirements. The following parameters will be tested: Dissolved Oxygen, CBOD, Ammonia, Chlorine, TSS, and E. coli. \*If an appointment is not scheduled, HCPH will invoice the homeowner.

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*Please fill out the information below.*

<p><b>Reason for Request:</b></p> <p>___ O&amp;M (1 of 2 samples)      ___ Voluntary</p> <p>___ O&amp;M (both samples)      ___ NPDES (Annual)*</p> <p>___ Nuisance Complaint</p>	<p><b>Location to be sampled:</b></p> <p>Address/City: _____</p> <p>Township: _____</p> <p>Owner's name: _____</p>
<p>Applicant Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p><b>Results to be provided by:</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> mail   <input type="checkbox"/> email</p>	<p><b>If applicable, access to be provided by:</b></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p>

**Contact HCPH Environmental Division for total cost as lab fees are subject to change.**

**An adult age eighteen (18) years or older must be available on site.**

**Re-inspections and missed appointments will incur an additional fee.**

**Make checks payable to Huron County Public Health. Payment is required prior to scheduling.**

**Once the application and payment are received, HCPH will call to schedule an appointment.**