



Thank you for volunteering for the Citizen Water Quality Monitoring program! E.coli Monitors are extremely important to ensure our watershed stays healthy. Citizen Water Quality Monitoring (CWQM) is a citizen science water quality monitoring initiative created by DRBA to utilize volunteers to more effectively monitor our local streams.

As a CWQM E.coli monitor, our volunteers test for:

- Escherichia coli (commonly known as **E. coli**) bacteria
- pH
- turbidity
- temperature
- make visual observations of your site and waterway conditions
- You may choose to add Salt Watch Monitoring (December – March) and Nitrate Watch Monitoring to your monthly testing

Your time commitment will be:

- 1 year minimum
- A required 2-hour in-person training
- Monitor an assigned waterway once a month (30 minutes at site, 30-45 minutes plating and counting colonies)
- Data must be entered into the DRBA website monthly
- May choose to monitor more than one site

All disposable monitoring supplies are provided by DRBA every six months. You may pick up your monitoring supplies at a DRBA office that is most convenient for you. A monitoring kit will be provided at the time of commitment along with a CWQM t-shirt and CWQM Manual.

FAQs:

1. What if I go on vacation when I need to test my site? *You may test your site before or after you return from vacation.*
2. How often does a volunteer need to collect samples as an E.coli monitor? *You will be testing your site monthly - around the same time each month.*
3. I am not seeing a high amount of E.coli at my site – may I switch to another site before the one-year commitment is up? *It's best to monitor the same site for a year period so we have baseline data for that site. Remember, we want to see minimal E.coli presence, so all data is good data.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: drba.va@danriver.org.

Again, thank you for your willingness to donate your time and energy. We really appreciate you!