

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories

Test Name	<b><i>E. coli</i> Enumeration Test of Source Water Samples</b>
PHL Location	Amite Laboratory, Central Laboratory, Shreveport Laboratory
CPT Code	N/A
Synonyms	LT2
Brief Description of Test	The enumeration of <i>E. coli</i> in source water using SM9223 (Colilert Quanti-tray 2000).
Possible Results	<i>E. coli</i> Most Probable Number (MPN)/100 ml
Reference Range	A mean of 50 <i>E. coli</i> for flowing stream and a mean of 10 <i>E. coli</i> for reservoir/lakes.
Specimen Type	Source Water
Specimen Container(s):	<p>Sterile, disposable 150 ml Idexx vessels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only containers QC'd and supplied by the laboratory are suitable for use. DO NOT purchase privately.</li> </ul>
Minimum volume accepted:	120 ml
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect representative sample according to established protocols.</li> <li>Use an Idexx vessel and fill leaving at least 1 inch of air space at top of container.</li> </ul>
Storage and Transport Instructions	Store & transport sample(s) in clean iced cooler(s). Samples must be at <10°C when received. Maximum holding time is 30 hours.
Causes for Rejection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sample &gt;30 hours old.</li> <li>Frozen water sample.</li> <li>No sample ID.</li> <li>Unsatisfactory collection container.</li> <li>Insufficient amount of sample.</li> <li>Sample container leaking.</li> <li>Sample information form not complete.</li> <li>Sample temperature &gt;10°C upon receipt.</li> </ul>

Limitations of the Procedure	Not suitable for marine water or any sample altered by any pre-enrichment or concentration.
Interfering Substances	Samples containing humic material with innate color.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idexx Laboratories Colilert</li> <li>• Colilert 18 package inserts</li> <li>• LDH-OPH Laboratory Services SOP DOLSOPDWM-01 Chromogenic Fluorogenic Substrate Method.</li> </ul>
Additional Information	<p>A STARLIMS COC or completed Lab 8 form must accompany each sample.</p> <p>The following is required information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sample sequence #s or STARLIMS Sample ID label</li> <li>• Project Code</li> <li>• Name of Supply</li> <li>• Collected by (name)</li> <li>• PWS ID</li> <li>• Date/Time Collected</li> <li>• Type of source water</li> <li>• Turbidity</li> </ul>
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