

# TOTAL COLIFORM & E. COLI BACTERIA ANALYSIS

## SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND HANDLING

1. Samples are collected and cultured in IDEXX presterilized 120 ml plastic bottles (Cat. #WV1205BST-200). Containers with sodium thiosulfate must be used when samples are collected from a chlorinated source.
2. Water samples collected must be representative of the water being tested. A sampling source close to the supply should be used. **Remove all attachments from distribution taps before sampling. Use the cold water supply for sampling; allow water to run for at least 2 minutes before sampling to clear supply line. It may be advisable to disinfect the outer area of the faucet with a lighter or match followed by the 2 minute flush.**
3. The sample container should be kept closed until ready for sample collection. Aseptic technique should be used to insure that contamination does not occur. Remove the plastic shrink wrap from the lid, open the sterile container, and fill to the mark without splashing. Close the sample vessel and label with proper identification and chain of custody documentation. **Place the sample on ice for transport to the lab (<6°C). DELIVER TO EMI WITHIN 6 HOURS AFTER COLLECTION. Bring sample ON ICE into lab within 6 hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursday before 4:30 pm.**
4. Samples should be processed as soon after collection as possible.
5. A sample will be rejected if any of the following applies:
  - A. The sample cannot be analyzed within the holding time.
  - B. It was not collected in an approved container.
  - C. The identify of the sample or chain of custody documentation is not clear or properly signed and dated.
  - D. The sample is leaking.
  - E. The sample has insufficient volume (<100 ml).
6. A sample will be invalidated if any of the following applies:
  - A. Test results are ambiguous under method guidelines (e.g. immediate color change upon addition of colisure media).
  - B. Test not performed according to method and SOP or a QA/QC problem is detected.

FEE\* - \$ 50.00 per sample

PLEASE PAY WHEN DELIVERING SAMPLE. EMI accepts cash or check.

EMI accepts bacteria samples on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
8 am – 4.30 pm.

\* Fee is based on regular 15-day turnaround time.