



Food Poisoning

(Salmonella, Shigella, Bacillus SPP, Staphylococcus, E. coli O157:H7)

(Specimen type dependent: Listeria, campylobacter, vibrio, clostridium, *Yersinia enterocolitica*)

Test Description

A food sample is tested for *Bacillus cereus*, coliforms, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, Fecal Streptococcus, Salmonella, Shigella, and *Staphylococcus aureus* by culture-based assays. The testing consists of preparing suspensions of the food item, inoculation of culture media with the suspension and the identification and quantification of the particular pathogen included in the test battery. In instances where Salmonella, Shigella, Listeria, or *E. coli* O157:H7 are specifically suspected, specimens undergo broth enrichment testing.

Acceptable Specimens: collection guide and transport conditions

- Food specimen
 - Temperature: Sample must be delivered properly stored (e.g., refrigerate all perishable items, maintain frozen foods in frozen condition - avoid freeze/ thaw cycles, dry goods can be stored at room temperature)
 - Specimen Submission: Specimen needs to be delivered the same day that it was collected
 - Container: Sterile Whirl-Pak bags, or other sterile container. It is recommended that the entire sample in original packaging/container be submitted
 - Minimum specimen volume: 11g routine testing, 25 g per enrichment type



ALLEGHENY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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Laboratory Unit

Bacteriology

Methodology

Culture

Acceptable Specimen Type(s)

Food specimen

Test Request

Coming Soon

Possible Results:

- Qualitative (Present /Absent)
 - Salmonella, vibrio, E. coli, staphylococcus, listeria, shigella
- Quantitative results
 - enterococcus, bacillus, coliforms, *Clostridium perfringens*
 - 1.0×10^5 cfu/g

Reference Range

Absent

Rejection Criteria

- Unreadable/missing/insufficient labeling
- Wrong specimen collection kit
- Expired specimen collection kit
- Storage/transportation requirements not met
- Leaking or contaminated specimen transport container
- Quantity not sufficient
- Improperly collected specimen
- Specimen not inoculated/ no specimen submitted

Result Reported

2-7 days

LOINC Code(s)

6459-2