



Thermotolerant Coliform

Environmental, non-potable water

Description

A water specimen is submitted for determining thermotolerant (formerly fecal) coliform bacterial densities. Addition of sodium thiosulfate to the sample neutralizes any residual chlorine to reduce the potential bactericidal activity during specimen transport. Targeted quantities are filtered through a 0.22 μm membrane to collect bacteria present within the water specimen. The membrane filters are placed in a petri plate containing an enriched lactose medium then incubated for 24 hours at $44.5^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ for selectivity. Thermotolerant coliform colony forming units (CFU's) are counted to calculate the quantity of thermotolerant coliform bacteria present per 100 ml of specimen.

Acceptable Specimens: collection guide and transport conditions

- Non-Potable Water for Fecal Coliform
 - Temperature: Refrigerated (2-8 $^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 - Maximum Submission Delay: Specimen must be received as soon as possible after collection
 - Container: Sterile 125-ml Nalgene bottle with wide-mouth and screw-capped lid containing 3 drops of sterile 0.1 N sodium thiosulfate

Laboratory Unit

Bacteriology

Methodology

Culture



ALLEGHENY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

3901 Penn Ave, Building 8
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412.578.8070

Test Request

Coming Soon

Possible Results:

- Absent
- Present

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
- Specimen too old
 - Collected it in acceptable kit but did not submit within appropriate time window
- Improperly collected specimen
- Specimen not inoculated/ no specimen submitted

Result Reported

24-48 hours

LOINC Code(s)

14081-5