HETEROTROPHIC BACTERIA DETECTION IN POTABLE AND NON-POTABLE WATER	
Test Description	Determination of heterotrophic bacteria in water.
Test Use	Useful for evaluating potable and non-potable water.
Test Department	Environmental Microbiology: Phone 860-920-6699 Fax 860-920-6703
Methodology	SM9215: Heterotrophic Plate Count
Availability	Year-round
Sample Requirements	One (1) sample collected in a sterile 250 mL bacteriological collection bottle, provided by the CT DPH Laboratory.
Container type /Preservative	Sterile 250 mL bacteriological bottle. Sodium Thiosulfate preservative.
Collection Instructions (Note 1)	For taps, remove aerators and let water run 4-5 minutes. For outdoor locations, sampling location should be in accordance with a preapproved quality assurance project plan.
Sample Holding Time & Transport	Samples are iced or refrigerated and kept below 10°C from time of collection until analysis. Potable water samples must be analyzed within 8 hours of collection. If analysis cannot begin within 8 hours for non-potable water samples, maintain sample at a temperature below 4°C but do not freeze. Maximum elapsed time between collection and analysis must not exceed 24 hours.
Unacceptable Conditions	Incomplete requisition form. Insufficient sample volume. Samples received beyond the acceptable holding time. Samples that have been frozen. Samples with residual chlorine present. Samples collected in non-sterile containers.
Requisition Form	Use the Environmental Microbiology Drinking Water, Pool Water, or Food and Environmental Sample submission form.
Required Information	Fill out entire requisition form.
Limitations	Samples must be submitted by 2 P.M. Monday through Thursday to ensure processing that day.
Additional Comments	

Note 1: See *New England States Environmental Sampling Guide*, latest edition.
https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/NE-States-Sample-Collection-Manual.pdf