

TOTAL COLIFORM AND <i>ESCHERICHIA COLI</i> DETECTION IN POTABLE WATER	
Test Description	Determination of total coliform and <i>Escherichia coli</i> bacteria in water.
Test Use	Useful for evaluating drinking waters and dairy source waters.
Test Department	Environmental Microbiology: Phone 860-920-6699 Fax 860-920-6703
Methodology	SM9223: Colilert/Colisure
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	Dairy source water samples must be kept below 10°C from time of collection until analysis. Dairy source water samples must be analyzed within 8 hours of collection. Drinking water samples must be analyzed within 30 hours of collection.
Unacceptable Conditions	Incomplete requisition form. Insufficient sample volume. Samples received beyond the 8-hour/30-hour 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 submission form.
Required Information	Fill out entire requisition form.
Limitations	Samples must be submitted by 3 P.M. Monday through Friday 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>