



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
TEST INFORMATION**

Section: Environmental

Test Name: Heterotrophic Plate Count

Test Includes: Detection of heterotrophic bacteria	
<i>Reporting</i>	
Results Available: Wednesday through Friday	Contact Number: 650-573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
Method: Standard plate count	
Turnaround Time: 2-3 days	Reference Range: Varies by sample type
Limitations: No Thursday or Friday deliveries. Specimen must be delivered within 4 hours of collection.	Interpretation: Varies by sample type
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
Specimen Collection:	Sample Type: Pool, sauna, hot tub or potable water
Volume/Amount Required: 25-50 ml	Preferred Specimen:
Collection/Preservation: sodium thiosulfate	Storage Instructions: 2-4° C
Causes for Rejection: Too long in transit; sample not refrigerated	Sample Container: Approved 120 ml bottle
Sample Test Kit:	Availability: Monday through Wednesday only. No emergency samples from the public.
Test Information: Detection limits – 0-3,000 colonies/ml; extra dilutions on request.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
Request Form: Environmental Test Request	Specimen Handling:
Transport Temperature: <10 ° C with freezer packs	Shipping Requirements:
<i>Billing</i>	
Effective Date: June 15, 2011	Fees: \$25.00