



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

**Section: Environmental**

**Test Name: Colilert Presence/Absence**

<b>Test Includes:</b> Total Coliform and E. coli	
<i>Reporting</i>	
<b>Results Available:</b> Tuesday through Friday	<b>Contact Number:</b> 650-573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
<b>Method:</b> Colilert	
<b>Turnaround Time:</b> 1 day	<b>Reference Range:</b> Absent (<1)
<b>Limitations:</b> No Friday deliveries for routine specimens	<b>Interpretation:</b> Total coliforms and <i>E. coli</i> present or absent
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
<b>Specimen Collection:</b>	<b>Sample Type:</b> Drinking water
<b>Volume/Amount Required:</b> 100-120 ml	<b>Preferred Specimen:</b>
<b>Collection/Preservation:</b> Sodium thiosulfate	<b>Storage Instructions:</b> 2-4° C
<b>Causes for Rejection:</b> Specimen too old or not refrigerated	<b>Sample Container:</b> Approved sterile 120 ml sample collection container
<b>Sample Test Kit:</b>	<b>Availability:</b> Monday-Thursday (other days for emergencies only)
<b>Test Information:</b> Samples must be from potable water source in approved sample container and submitted within 24 hours. Sample size must be greater than 100 ml. Enumeration not performed.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
<b>Request Form:</b> Environmental test request form	<b>Specimen Handling:</b>
<b>Transport Temperature:</b> <10°C with freeze packs	<b>Shipping Requirements:</b>
<i>Billing</i>	
<b>Effective Date:</b> June 15, 2011	<b>Fees:</b> \$20.00