

WIPE, Test Code 1012-Total Coliforms/*E. Coli*

This particular test is useful in determining the presence or absence of *E. coli* and coliforms on a surface or the effectiveness of abatement after a black water event. The test results are qualitative and will result in the presence or absence of *E.coli* and coliforms. The affected areas are sampled using a Stuart swab or sterile wipe.

Colisure® presence/absence test medium allows for simultaneous testing for the presence or absence of total coliform bacteria and *Escherichia coli*. Colisure can detect these bacteria at 1 cfu within 24 hours even with as many as 2 million heterotrophic bacteria are present.

1. Crush the ampoule in the bottom of the sterile tube and place swab in tube to moisten.
2. Remove both swabs of the double system and sample the affected surface by rolling both swabs vigorously over the area. Indicate on the chain of custody the surface area sampled in either in² or cm².
3. Label all samples appropriately and submit to the laboratory for analysis in a timely manner. *Swabs should be refrigerated if the samples are not immediately sent to the lab. A cold pack and cooler should be used during the warm months.

References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 5.2.6.6:61, 7.1: 141-143 (2005).

Macher, Janet, Sc.D., M.P.H., Bioaerosols , 7.4.1.2, 18.1.4.2 (1999).

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/unp-envsamp.html#ster> ,NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods (NMAM), Fourth Edition January 15, 1998.

Federal Register, Part II, December 5, 1994, Environmental Protection Agency, 40 CFR Parts 141 and 143, Analytical Methods for Regulating Drinking Water Contaminants: Final Rule, 141.21 (f)(3).