

## Water, Test Code 1124- MRSA Culture & Total Bacterial Culture w/ ID

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is a multi drug resistant bacterium that is normally associated with hospitals and healthcare facilities. Now it can be found in classrooms, locker rooms and athletic facilities like wrestling rooms. The MRSA found in hospitals is referred as HA-MRSA or hospital associated MRSA. People who haven't been to a hospital or healthcare facility in two years and contract MRSA have a strain called CA-MRSA, community associated MRSA. The reason why this bacterium is so devastating is once it enters the body thru a cut it can move from organ to organ with ease. Staph. aureus is spread thru bodily fluids and skin to skin contact. The bacterium likes to grow on surfaces and fabrics like gowns and curtains.

1. Obtain a sterile container from Aerobiology.
2. Collect a 100ml of water from the tap or reservoir in the sterile container making sure the inside of the container is not contaminated by the collector.
3. Keep the water in a cooler and an ice pack for transportation to the laboratory.
4. The water sample **must** reach the laboratory within 24 hours of collection or the sample will be deemed invalid.

### References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 6.2.4: 134-135 (2005).

Eaton, Andrew D., Lenore S. Clesceri, Eugene W. Rice, Arnold E. Greenberg, Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater., 9-21 (2005).

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mrsa/>, Center for Disease Control, (2007).