IDEXX Colilert Bacteria Analysis Method
- Sterility Checks, Blanks, Positive and Negative Controls -

At the start of each sampling season, each local volunteer laboratory using the IDEXX Colilert method will be assessed by VRMP staff:

1. Using a QA/QC checklist developed in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services Laboratory Certification Officer (see QA/QC Checklist for IDEXX Colilert [Maine VRMP] in Appendix 11 of the VRMP QAPP).

2. Having sterility check, blank, positive, and negative control tests performed on pre/un-used sample media and related equipment by Nelson Analytical (Springvale, ME) – a laboratory is certified by the NELAC Institute for the similar method Colilert. Nelson Analytical sterility checks all IDEXX Colilert® supplies and reagents before they are utilized by volunteer laboratories in the VRMP.
    a. These assessments include testing each lot of the Quanti-Tray 2000 units, sample vessels and single-use pipettes. Each lot of Colilert® media is used before the listed expiration date and stored in a cool (20-30 ^{o}C) dry place out of direct sunlight. Each lot is quality checked using a positive culture to ensure growth of the target organism, and all Quanti-Tray cells must exhibit fluorescence, the expected reaction to the target organism. Each lot of media is also tested using two negative controls to demonstrate the media does not support the growth of non-target organisms. Each laboratory also processes one blank (distilled water and media) for each group of samples processed.
    b. The data quality objective for blanks is <10 MPN. For each laboratory 10% of the laboratory samples are duplicated and the RPD regularly assessed.