

APPENDIX E
OHIO WATER MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLES USING COLILERT PRESENCE/ABSENCE
LARGE-VOLUME SAMPLES

1. Warm up the sealer; this takes about 10 minutes.
2. Prepare lab forms. Fill out appropriate lab forms for each sample.
3. Label 125-mL sterile bottles with sample information (site name, date, and dilution).
4. Mix in 125-mL bottle, one packet of pre-measured Colilert reagents (Idexx) with 100 mL sterile deionized water. Mix to dissolve reagent.
5. Set up the membrane filtration apparatus.
 - a. Filter the water sample (1-L volumes are recommended) onto a 0.45- μ m filter.
 - b. Remove the filter aseptically and immerse it into the Colilert reagent vial.
6. Incubate the sample vial for 24–28 hours at 35°C.
7. Observe the sample vial:

Under ambient light - yellow is positive for total coliforms

Under fluorescence - whitish-blue fluorescence is positive for *E. coli*.

Dim yellow color and dim or off-color fluorescence are not counted as positive results.