

## How to set up Petrifilms and Colilert tubes

Assemble all materials on a clean level surface such as a table top. Label all tubes, plates and specimens. Record collection date and location on forms.

Carefully open sterile pipet without touching tip. Open specimen container and Colilert tube.

Fill Colilert tube to mark with liquid specimen, close tube and mix well. Return pipet to sterile wrapper.

Fill pipet with one ml. of specimen. Carefully dispense specimen in center of Petrifilm and slowly lower cover sheet.

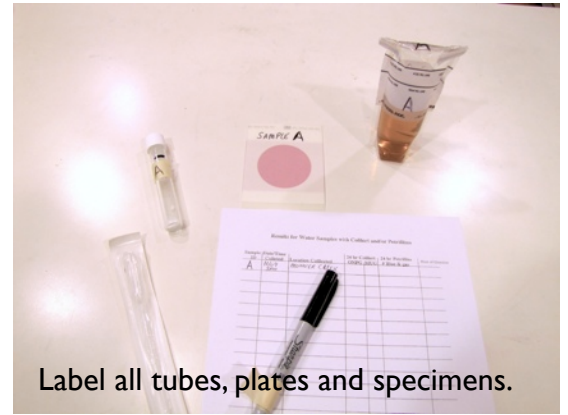
Place spreader disk flat side down on Petrifilm and gently press to distribute liquid evenly on film. Allow film to rest 1-2 minutes for gel to harden.

Place Colilert tubes and Petrifilms in protective containers and incubate for 18 -24 hours.

### Safety Issues

Clean up spills of specimens and testing materials with soap and water or dilute bleach. Dispose of specimens and materials safely, such as pouring liquid in toilet or latrine and placing empty containers in garbage. Be careful of dropping and breaking Colilert tubes, carefully clean up any broken glass.

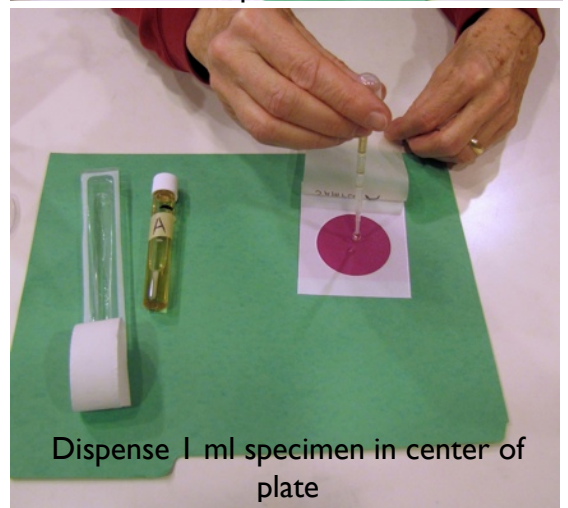
The methods that we use to test for E. coli contamination are the COLILERT tube test by IDEXX and the PETRIFILM plate by 3M.



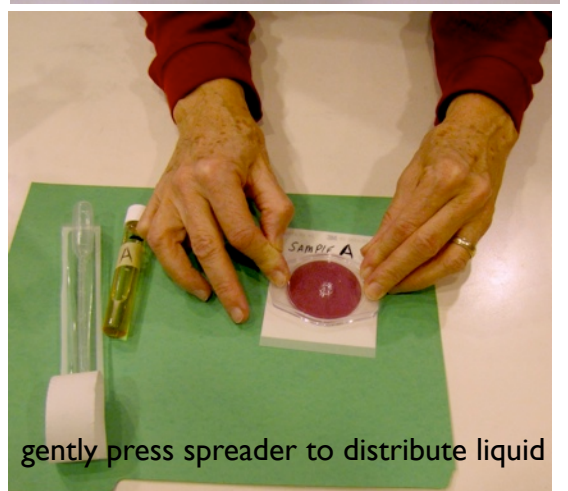
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Fill Colilert tube to mark with liquid specimen



Dispense 1 ml specimen in center of plate



gently press spreader to distribute liquid