



VETERINARY
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover®

Water / Disinfectant Culture Submission & Interpretation

Laboratory for Udder Health (LUH)

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Sample Collection

- Please provide at least 250 ml or approximately 8oz for a water test.
- For teat dip/disinfectant test, provide a 3/4 full milk tube (or about 2oz).
- A sterile plastic bottle or tube is preferable to a bag. Liquid samples submitted in whirl pacs or other bags will be subject to an additional handling fee.

Submission Form

- Complete the Laboratory for Udder Health submission form
- Many different sites/locations can be sent in one box, as long as the samples are placed in separate bags clearly labeled with a patron name.
- There should be a separate submission form included for each site/location. This ensures that the appropriate tests are performed and results are available to the proper parties
- One submission form can be used for multiple test requests as long as the samples are clearly labeled. Please make sure it is very clear which tests apply to which set of samples (perhaps add a picture).
- Seal submission forms in a separate bag from the samples being submitted.

Packaging and Shipping

- Fill empty space in the container with packing material to prevent tubes and ice packs from moving around inside the box during shipping.
- Samples should be frozen before shipping to ensure that bacterial overgrowth does not occur during shipping.
- Ship samples in an insulated shipping container with freezer packs.

Results and Interpretation

For water samples, the LUH reports the cfu/ml of Gram-negative organisms. Different organisms may be reported on request (such as Prototheca). This test is commonly used to monitor for fecal coliform contamination, but may be used for other reasons, such as to monitor bacterial contamination of water used in the dairy parlor. The LUH does not provide interpretation guidelines for water cultures.

For disinfectant samples, the LUH reports the cfu/ml of any organism. Any growth is considered abnormal.

For more information about the Lab for Udder Health, visit <https://www.vdl.umn.edu/udderhealth>, or contact us at: LUHTesting@umn.edu.