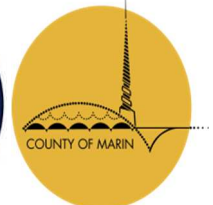
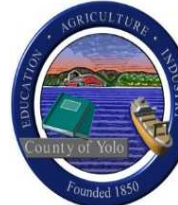


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
2201 COURAGE DRIVE, MS 9-200  
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533  
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



<b>Test</b>	E. coli O157/STEC Culture
<b>Test Description</b>	An E. coli/STEC culture screens stool for the growth of Shiga Toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC). A complete work-up will involve an assessment of Shiga Toxin production by immunoassay, serotyping for <i>E. coli</i> O157 by latex agglutination, and/or detection of Shiga Toxin type 1 and type 2 genes by PCR. STEC isolates will be sent to the Microbial Diseases Laboratory of the California Department of Public Health for confirmation and serotyping.
<b>Acceptable specimens</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stool specimens in C&amp;S or Cary-Blair transport medium (preferred)</li> <li>2. Fresh unpreserved stool in a sterile container</li> <li>3. GN broths (inoculated, overnight cultures)</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: A walnut-sized sample is an appropriate amount of stool to place in C&amp;S or Cary-Blair medium. The medium should not be overfilled. After adding the stool sample, the contents of the collection vial should be mixed well with the provided spoon or stick. Specimens should not be contaminated with urine.</i></p>
<b>Timing of collection</b>	Specimens should be collected in the early stages of enteric illness, preferably within 4 days of onset.
<b>Specimen storage</b>	Specimens in C&S or Cary-Blair transport medium and GN broths should be kept refrigerated (2–8°C). Fresh unpreserved specimens must be received by the laboratory within 2 hours of collection.
<b>Specimen shipping</b>	Preserved specimens should be shipped refrigerated, and must be received by the laboratory within 96 hours of collection. However, it is preferable that preserved stool specimens are received within 24 hours to allow the best recovery of pathogens. GN broths should be shipped refrigerated and received by the laboratory within 72 hours after incubation.
<b>CPT code</b>	87046
<b>Test fee</b>	Refer to the posted fee schedule
<b>Result availability (turnaround time)</b>	Results are typically faxed to the submitter within 3 business days after specimen receipt. A preliminary report will be issued if a STEC is isolated, since the organism will be sent to the Microbial Diseases Laboratory for confirmation and serotyping. Negative specimens require 2–3 days for culturing to be completed.