

PROTOCOL

1. Don proper PPE.
2. **Sample extraction:** Following the IFU for the Now! kit, flush the instrument channel with the supplied (5ML) sterile water for irrigation. Recapture the water in a sterile container or the provided ziplock bag. Out of this extracted sample, 0.5 ML is needed for performing a NOW! test and 0.5 ML for culturing.
3. **Now! Test:** Pipette 0.5ML of the extracted water in the supplied cuvette with growth medium and incubate the sample according to the NOW! IFU.
4. **Culturing:** Aseptically spread 0.5ML of the recaptured water carefully on the surface of MacConkey's agar (MacConkey's Agar is a specialized bacterial growth medium that is selective for Gram-negative bacteria). Spread evenly over the agar surface using a sterile bent glass rod or a sterile disposable spreader. The goal in evenly spreading the bacterial suspension is to permit the growth of colonies that can subsequently be enumerated.

After the spread plate has been permitted to absorb the inoculum for 10 to 20 minutes, invert the petriplate and incubate for a couple days at 35°C to 37°C in an incubator.

Observe plates for suspect colonies.