



## Now! Swab Test Negative Control Protocol

- 1) Don proper PPE and follow aseptic technique as a measure of good practice.
- 2) Draw up 0.5 mL of supplied pre-packaged sterile water (emptied in the provided ziplock bag or a container e.g. urine cup) using the supplied pipette.
- 3) Add the sterile water to the provided sterile cuvette with the growth medium.
- 4) Remove the supplied flocked swab from the packaging and moisten the swab with sterile water.
- 5) Break the swab at the scored break point by bending the shaft over the inside edge of the cuvette, so that the swab end goes in the cuvette.
- 6) Tightly close the cuvette lid and invert gently a couple times for mixing.
- 7) Place vials in the block incubator and allow 12 or more hours of incubation. The incubator should be set to 37°C.
- 8) After incubation, the cuvette needs to be allowed to cool down. One of two methods can be employed:
  - 9) **Cooling Sample**
    - a. Room temperature cooling: remove the cuvette and place in the supplied holder and allow cooling for a minimum of **1 hour**, but not greater than 3 hours. Continue to the next step.
    - b. Refrigerator cooling: remove the cuvette and place in the supplied holder. Place in a refrigerator (approximate temperature of 4C) for **15 minutes**. Remove from the refrigerator at 15 minutes and continue to the next step.
- 10) Remove the swab from the vial using sterile tweezers. When removing, swipe the swab against the inside edge of the vial to remove excess fluid
- 11) Before adding Reagent A, switch the power source of the fluorometer at the upper right corner to "ON".
- 12) Add 2 drops of Reagent A to the cuvette.

- 13) *'Gently' invert it about four times to help mix the Reagent A with the sample. While inverting hold the cuvette at its top half. Make sure there are no air bubbles. Immediately proceed to the next steps for testing.*
- 14) Place the cuvette in the fluorometer, line up the pointy side of the cuvette with the black line in the reader, and place the black cap firmly on the fluorometer.
- 15) This screen will show up, press the "Measure" button.
- 16) Press "Ch 360".
- 17) Press "Blank" (timer will start counting seconds).
- 18) Press "Measure" and wait 10 minutes to get the reading.
- 19) At 10 minutes, the fluorometer will automatically take a reading. (A value will be displayed in the box below the timer). The value displayed before 10 minutes is disregarded. Please Note: The timer on the fluorometer will continue to run, but the reading displayed is taken exactly at the 10 minute mark.
- 20) If desired to test a new sample, press "Return" twice to begin a new sample.

#### INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

- A numerical value should be less than "200."
- A value greater than "200" may indicate
  1. The cuvette was not allowed to cool long enough (see Step 6 above).
  2. The sample was contaminated during testing with Gram negative bacteria.
  3. Bubbles were present when the cuvette was placed in the fluorometer and caused auto-fluorescence.
  4. There is an issue with either the consumables of the NOW! Test or the fluorometer.
- If a value greater than 200, run a second negative control.
- If a result greater than 200 is again reported, contact Healthmark.