



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
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## Test Order

### Shiga Toxin Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) Isolation (Including *E. coli* O157)

Synonym(s)	<i>E. coli</i> O157 Clearance, <i>E. coli</i> O157 Isolation, Non-O157 Shiga Toxin Producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) Isolation, STEC Clearance
Methodology	Culture, biochemical identification, latex agglutination, real time Shiga toxin gene ( <i>stx1/stx2</i> ) PCR, immunochromatographic rapid toxin assay
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	Stool specimens in PARA-PAK C&S; Shiga toxin positive Mac or GN broths held at refrigeration (2-8°C) until testing.
Transport / Collection Medium	PARA-PAK C&S: mix well after collection. Refrigerate, and deliver to the laboratory within 3 days of collection. Toxin-positive broths: packaged and sealed according to regulations.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Refrigerate until transported to the laboratory. Transport at room temperature.
Minimum Volume Required	PARA-PAK C&S: Fill to line (do NOT overfill).
Additional Collection Instructions	N/A
Additional Required Information	GN/MAC broths: toxin testing results.
Send Out?	Yes (Shiga toxin gene PCR and limited serogrouping performed in-house)
Turnaround Time	Up to 8 weeks
Testing Restrictions	
Requisition Form(s)	<a href="http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1036">http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1036</a>
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Delays in GN/Mac broth submissions to the laboratory can lead to reduced success in STEC isolation and characterization.

This Shiga toxin gene PCR assay was developed and its performance characteristics were determined by the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory. It has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has determined that such approval is not necessary and results should not be regarded as investigational or for research.

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