

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

July 8, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

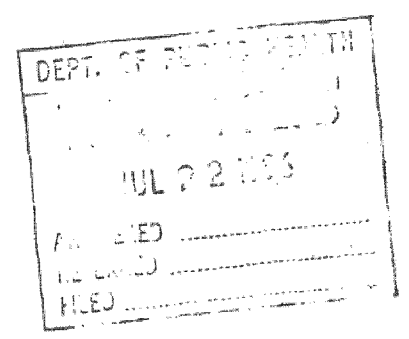
The EPA-approved membrane filtration method for the detection of enterococci in bathing waters requires 48 hours incubation before confirmation, enumeration, and reporting. In an effort to reduce the turnaround time for detection and enumeration of enterococci, personnel in the Division of Laboratory Services recently evaluated a new, semi-automated test, the **Enterolert** test. In this extensive evaluation, the **Enterolert** test was shown to have three important advantages over the membrane filtration method:

1. The **Enterolert** test is more accurate.
2. Results are available in 24 hours, allowing more frequent testing and more rapid response to problems.
3. Much less hands-on time is required, which reduces costs for the Laboratory.

The **Enterolert** test is a major improvement over other tests for enterococci, and it should prove to be a valuable aid in the evaluation of the quality of bathing waters. Based on advantages of the **Enterolert** test and the recommendation of Sanders F. Hawkins, Ph.D., Laboratory Director, I approve the **Enterolert** test as an acceptable method for testing bathing waters samples for enterococci.

Respectfully,

Stephen A. Harriman, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Public Health



Phone: (860) 509-7191  
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191  
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 5100  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
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