

Public Health Microbiology Laboratory - Water Testing Section
University Hospital Galway

What the Microbiology Laboratory Report on the Water Sample Means

Test Result - Positive result

MPN of Coliforms per 100mls : Result: ≥ 1 MPN per 100ml
MPN of *E.coli* per 100mls : Result = not detected per 100ml
or
MPN of Coliforms per 100mls : Result: ≥ 1 MPN per 100ml
MPN of *E.coli* per 100mls : Result = ≥ 1 MPN per 100ml

Coliforms: Present *E.coli* : not detected

There is evidence that there may be Faecal contamination of the water
Water is **not suitable** for drinking without further treatment.

Coliforms : Present *E.coli*: Present

There is evidence that there is Faecal contamination of the water
Water is **not suitable** for drinking without further treatment

Test Result - Negative result

MPN of Coliforms per 100mls : Result: = not detected MPN per 100ml
MPN of *E.coli* per 100mls : Result = not detected MPN per 100ml

Treated Water Supply (e.g. Chlorinated, Filtered, UV Light)

*Water has **no evidence** of Faecal contamination at the time of testing.*
Water is suitable for drinking at the time of testing provided treatment system is operating correctly

Untreated Water Supply (e.g. Well water etc)

Water has **no evidence** of Faecal contamination at the time of testing.
However this is **not a guarantee that the water is fit for drinking** as other types of germs may be present (viruses, cryptosporidia etc)