

Legionella Testing

THE MYTH of VIABILITY
and VARIABILITY

MYTH: Major changes in Legionella between collection and testing.

No significant change in Legionella count between sample collection and culturing at 1, 24, and 48 hours. Samples held at room temperature.

MYTH: Legionella counts vary from site to site.

No significant difference in Legionella concentrations among 12 outlets over 13 sampling dates.

MYTH: Percent positivity not dependable tool.

Extent of colonization stable over the study period shows reliability for assessing risk.

FACT: Legionella stable over time and transport within 48 hours.

Culturing water within 48 hours of sample collection gave valid results. Rely on culture the "gold standard" for Legionella testing as described in ISO 11731.

Testing for Legionella in Healthcare Facilities: Evaluation of the Reproducibility of Legionella Test Results and the Impact of Time on Viability and Variability

Study presented at the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (June 2013)



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