



FAQs – RapidChek® Listeria

What species does the RapidChek Listeria test detect?

It detects all species of Listeria including: L. monocytogenes (all 16 serotypes), L. ivanovii, L. innocua, L. welshimeri, L. grayi, L. seeligeri, L. marthii, and L. murrayi.

What is the sensitivity of the RapidChek system?

It detects 1 cfu per sample.

How has the test been validated?

The test has been performance validated by AOAC Research Institute for both a variety of food and environmental samples.

What foods has it been validated with?

It has been officially validated with a variety of foods including: roast beef, ricotta cheese, deli turkey, potato salad, smoked fish, cooked shrimp, milk, ice cream, hot dogs, pepperoni, as well as environmental samples including stainless steel, painted concrete and rubber. See Technical Bulletin #11 for a full list of validated matrices.

Does the test cross react with any organisms other than Listeria?

To our knowledge the RapidChek strip does not cross react with any bacteria other than Listeria species.

How do I store the RapidChek Listeria media?

It is recommended that you store the base media at room temperature with the lid tightly closed. The supplement which is added to the base media should be stored at 2-8°C.

Can I autoclave the Listeria base media and supplement?

The Listeria base media should be autoclaved at 121°C for 15 minutes and allowed to cool to room temperature. The media supplement should NOT be autoclaved and should be added to the broth base just prior to use.

What dilution volumes do you recommend for environmental swabs and sponges?

For swabs, it is recommended that you use 10-15 mL of RapidChek media and for sponges, it is recommended that you use between 60-100 mL of RapidChek media.

What dilution volumes do you recommend with food samples?

For each 25 g sample, 225 mL of RapidChek media should be used.

Should the stomacher bag be closed tightly or should it be left slightly open?

Sample bags should be closed loosely to allow air exchange during sample enrichment and optimize pathogen growth and antigen expression.

What happens if I boil the samples for more than 5 minutes? Will this affect my test result?

Romer Labs has validated the system for a 5 minute boil at 100°C but we have conducted ruggedness studies that indicate that up to 15 minutes boiling time will not affect the test result.

Since the tubes are not capped, will there be any problems with cross contamination between samples during the boiling step?

Multiple internal studies (>500 samples) with combinations of un-inoculated and inoculated samples of uncapped tubes on the same rack have never yielded a problem with cross contamination. The volumetric levels of sample in test tubes is 400 µL, so cross contamination of samples is unlikely.

Can I use a heating block instead of a water bath?

Yes, the tubes provided with the kit are able to be used with a heating block in addition to a water bath.

Do I have to refrigerate the test strips?

No, the test strips can be stored at room temperature, just ensure the lid on the can is kept closed, as the strips are sensitive to variation in humidity. There is a desiccant indicator in the canister. This should be blue in color.

What happens if I read my lateral flow strip at times greater than 10 minutes?

Romer Labs recommend a 10 minute read time, but as part of our validation process a ruggedness study was conducted and has demonstrated that the strips can be read up to times of 20 minutes and still considered a valid result.

Does the fat content of the sample effect the enrichment or the flow of the sample on the test strip?

Romer Labs has tested a number of dairy products including ice cream, cheese and whole milk all that have a high fat content and none of these matrices adversely affected the enrichment or the overall performance of the test strip.

If the test line is weak should I still call it a positive result?

If a line is present at the test area on the strip it should be called a positive result.

How should the enrichment sample and test strip be disposed of?

As with all pathogen products, samples should be discarded according to good microbiological procedures.

Romer Labs recommends that both enrichment samples and test strips be autoclaved or treated with bleach.

For Technical & Customer Service:

Romer Labs Technology, Inc.

130 Sandy Drive

Newark, DE 19713

Phone: 1-855-337-6637

1-302-781-6400

Fax: 1-302-781-6378

E-mail: rapidchek@romerlabs.com

www.romerlabs.com