

**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary**

January 5, 2026

I Welcome and Roll Call:

Cody Danielson called the meeting to order at 12:35pm Eastern on January 5, 2026, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. Associates present: Lindsey Arnaud, Antoine Chamsi, Anagha Chitre, Bryan Disch, Shannon Freedman, Joe Guzman, Sviatlana Haubner, Carl Kircher, David Lo, and Joshua Snyder. Paul Junio attended as Program Administrator. Hannah Herrick from IDEXX also joined, and later joined TNI as a member.

II Approval of Agenda

Cody noted that the dates on the agenda were incorrect. With that comment, the agenda was approved by consent. *[NOTE: Meeting minutes from 12/9/25 were not sent out with the meeting announcement. They were subsequently distributed for comment and approved on 1/27/26.]*

III Discuss Comments related to revised DS

Cody shared the results of the polling that was done among the voting members. Only #5 reached consensus.

1 – Are you in support of allowing another accredited lab to perform initial media performance checking? Yes 6 No 6

2 – Are you then in support of the testing laboratory being allowed to use CoAs for pre-prepared media if the vendor is “appropriately accredited” if #1 is agreeable? Yes 5 No 1 N/A (I chose ‘no’ for #1) 6

3 – Are you in support of replacing the requirement for initial media performance testing with the requirement for quarterly “essential QC sample testing” run by the testing laboratory (lab of use) with a batch? Yes 5 No 7

4 – Are you support of the below language, proposed to address #3 above.

1 – The testing laboratory must determine how many samples constitute a batch and define it in the laboratory’s SOPs and quality manual (however named).

2 – For each method run, the testing laboratory must perform a positive culture control, negative culture control, and a method blank on one batch of samples quarterly, Yes 5 No 0 N/A (I chose ‘no’ for #3) 7

5 – Are you in support of the testing laboratory being allowed to use CoAs (if the vendor is “appropriately accredited”) in lieu of sterility testing if the testing laboratory runs a MB prior to or in conjunction with first use? Yes 10 No 2

6 – Use of non-reference, non-pure sources of a positive control for QC of non-selective media. Yes, labs should be allowed to use a non-reference, non-pure source for non-selective media QC testing because it will still show that the media supports bacterial growth 7; No, labs must use a known pure culture for non-selective media QC testing, same as is required for other media 3

7 – Verification of pH testing for purchased media/reagents. When media/reagents are purchased from a traceable source, ensuring the pH documented on the CoA is appropriate for the method meets the requirement to verify pH of that media/reagent 7; When media/reagents are purchased from a traceable source, the laboratory must perform pH testing to verify pH of that media/reagent regardless of CoA documentation 3

Section 8.4.1 - Robin led a historical discussion regarding temperature upon receipt. Federally at least, the RTCR does not have a minimum temp. According to the EPA, these samples don't even need to be on ice, just have sodium thiosulfate, and the DW Manual seems to be the biggest driver for most regulatory stuff. It was previously removed because we thought it was already stated elsewhere. SM 9060 B mentions getting samples to the lab within an hour. If not, then they need to be on ice and maintained at <10 degrees. Further reading of the method yields inconsistencies in how the requirements are stated. There can be issues on hot days, even when samples are iced immediately, where the temperature is still rather high even after hours (cooler than the original sample temp but still over the 10 degrees). We have to figure out how to not invalidate a sample where no good reason exists to do so.

Patsy suggested that the laboratory would have to determine if samples are acceptable based on the stated requirements of the CoC. The discussion continued on the language and on not applying thermal preservation requirements where they are not required. The language following this discussion is as follows: “For samples requiring thermal preservation, samples that are delivered to the laboratory on the day of collection may not meet temperature requirements of the method or the regulatory requirement. In these cases, the samples are considered acceptable if the samples are received on ice.”

Non-selective media 8.2.1.2 - There is a consensus (7 to 3) that labs should be allowed to use a non-reference, non-pure source for non-selective media QC testing because it will still show that the media supports bacterial growth

Response to Comments Document (additional comments are found in the Response to Comment Document)

Lines 80-81 – changed as part of re-write

Line 82 – persuasive and addressed in re-write

Lines 83-85 – not persuasive – committee intends to point out that this is more stringent than Module 2

Line 86 – persuasive – editorial/global change

Line 87 – should have referenced 8.2.1.1 – not persuasive, but addressed in other comments (see Line 51)

Line 88-92 – same incorrect reference and already previously addressed

Line 93 – Persuasive – updated as suggested

Lines 94-95, 97 – Editorial

Line 96 – Persuasive – language is to be developed

Having reached the end of the scheduled time, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM Eastern. A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B. A request for available times for a meeting prior to the conference will be sent out.

Attachment A - Participants

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Name	Organization	Stakeholder	Email	Term Expires	Present
Hunter Adams	City of Wichita Falls	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov	2026	
Nigel Allison	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	Lab	nallison@lacsds.org	2028*	X
Robin Cook (Vice Chair)	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us	2027	X
Cody Danielson (Chair)		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com	2028	X
Maria Fayard	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov	2029	
Maria Friedman	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com	2028	
Matt Graves	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com	2028	X
Silky Labie	ELCAT	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net	2029	
Elizabeth Lesold	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov	2027*	
Brian Mercer	Brian Mercer	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org	2027*	
Patsy Root	IDEXX Water	Other	patsy-root@idexx.com	2027*	X
Robert Royce	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov	2028	X
Tina Shidel	Pace Analytical Services - Ormond Beach	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com	2027*	X
Elisa Snyder	City of Austin - Austin Water	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov	2026	X
Paul Junio	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org		X

* - eligible to serve another term

Attachment B
Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
115	Committee motions, minutes, and votes as needed	Cody	Ongoing	Captured in meeting minutes whether in meeting or via email

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter (if needed) every 5 years.	n/a	Ongoing
2	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Paul Junio.		Moved to back-burner on 6/9/20.
3	Provide an update on what has been done with the method codes and database after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.		This was moved from the Action Items table. Notes: 6/9/20: Ask Jennifer for a follow-up. 11/9/20 – Not available for a follow-up.
4	Review Committee members for renewal / balance	n/a	Annually