

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary

May 4, 2026

I Welcome and Roll Call:

Cody Danielson called the meeting to order at 12:02pm Eastern on May 4, 2026, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associates present: Kai Chung, Sviatlana Haubner, Hannah Herrick, Bina Kapoor, Carl Kircher, David Lo, Alma McCammond, Christabel Monteiro, and Joshua Snyder. Paul Junio attended as Program Administrator.

II Approval of Agenda

Cody asked for any comments on the agenda. The Meeting agenda was incorrectly labeled 5/1/26; following the correction, the agenda was approved by consent.

III Approval of Meeting Minutes

April 20 Meeting minutes were not ready for approval prior to the meeting. *[Editor's note: April 20 Meeting minutes were distributed to the Committee on May 7. Following a May 8 motion by Patsy and a second by Katie, the Committee voted to approve the minutes (votes by Nigel, Robin, Cody, Maria Fayard, Matt, Silky, Liz, Patsy, Katie, and Elizabeth).]*

IV Finish discussion on Section 8.2.5.2 (now 7.2.5.2) regarding types of laboratory equipment. Following discussion, the following decisions were made:

Comment 111 – persuasive – add ‘verify the volumetric accuracy’

Comment 112 – persuasive – Comment – we need an umbrella statement just prior to 7.2.5.2 to address this, as follows – “Laboratory Equipment- laboratory equipment must be verified as per the appropriate section of Module 2 unless otherwise noted here.”

Comment 113 – non-persuasive – already covered in M2

Comment 114 – non-persuasive – removed entirely

Comment 115 – non-persuasive – removed entirely

Comment 116 – non-persuasive – removed entirely

Comment 117 – persuasive – same idea with clearer language

Comment 118 – non-persuasive – removed entirely

Comment 119 – non-persuasive – Equilibrium can't be address because a laboratory can't alter the time of incubation as required by the method. Guidance has been written on this subject.

Comment 120 – non-persuasive – globally verified as correct references

Comment 121 – persuasive – global change

Comment 122 - persuasive - global change

Comment 123 - persuasive – updated for clarity

Comment 124 - persuasive – re-worded such that each batch washed must be addressed

Comment 125 – non-persuasive – deleted as you already must follow the method

Comment 127 – non-persuasive – language was changed to address the comment, however

Comment 132 – non-persuasive – that language was removed

This was the end of the comments. Cody went back to address any that hadn't previously been addressed:

Comment 9-12 – non-persuasive – Technical Manager section removed and handled in M2

Comment 54 – persuasive – language changed, although may not have been as the commenter suggested

Comment 55 – persuasive – language changed, although may not have been as the commenter suggested

Comment 59 – non-persuasive – language removed entirely

Comment 60 – non-persuasive – section did receive a great deal of re-writing, however

Comment 62 – non-persuasive – section did receive a great deal of re-writing, however

Comment 64 – non-persuasive – the Committee points out that PCR or ELISA are not microorganisms

Comment 68-70 – persuasive – language drafted to allow for the use of COAs for pH checks

Comment 71 – non-persuasive – global change made

Comment 72 – persuasive – new language was drafted

Comment 73 – persuasive – updated as suggested

Finally, Cody reviewed the comments that were submitted following the Winter meeting in Boston. All comments had been addressed following this review. Note that all ABs in attendance unanimously agreed that a validation or verification could not be performed by a subset of a network of laboratories, rather it would need to be done by each laboratory.

Having reached the end of comments, Cody will send today's work products out and will clean-up the Response to Comment document [*Editor's note – date typos were updated from 5/6/24 and 5/6/26 to 5/4/26*]. The meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM Eastern.

Attachment A - Participants

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Name	Organization	Stakeholder	Email	Term Expires	Present
Nigel Allison (Vice Chair)	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	Lab	nallison@lacsds.org	2028*	Yes
Robin Cook	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us	2027	Yes
Cody Danielson (Chair)		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com	2028	Yes
Maria Fayard	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov	2029	Yes
Maria Friedman	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com	2028	Yes
Matt Graves	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com	2028	Yes
Silky Labie	ELCAT	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net	2029	Yes
Liz Lesold	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov	2027*	Yes
Brian Mercer	Brian Mercer	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org	2027*	No
Patsy Root	IDEXX Water	Other	patsy-root@idexx.com	2027*	Yes
Robert Royce	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov	2028	Yes
Tina Shidel	Pace Analytical Services - Ormond Beach	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com	2027*	Yes
Katie Strothman	Eurofins	Lab	katie.strothman@et.eurofinsus.com	2029*	No
Elizabeth Turner	Eurofins	Lab	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsus.com	2029*	No
Paul Junio	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org		Yes

* - eligible to serve another term