



NC DEPARTMENT OF
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HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Memo

To: Submitters of Clinical Specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

From: William A. Glover II, Ph.D., D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)
Assistant Laboratory Director, Infectious Diseases

Date: June 19, 2023

Re: Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) Testing Change

Effective June 19, 2023, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will begin performing the **Shiga Toxin QUIK CHEK™** test, for the detection of Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) (including *E. coli* O157:H7). This test is a rapid membrane enzyme immunoassay (EIA) for the qualitative detection and differentiation of Shiga toxin 1 (Stx1) and Shiga toxin 2 (Stx2). The Shiga Toxin QUIK CHEK™ test is being added to the NCSLPH test menu while validation of a new molecular test for Stx1 and Stx2 virulence genes takes place. After the molecular validation is complete, both methods will be performed to enhance the detection of novel subtypes.

You may notice changes in the report format. However, this change will not impact other Enteric Pathogen testing (e.g., *Salmonella*, *Shigella*). There are **no changes** to specimen collection or submission procedures. Additional information about specimen submission criteria and shipping can be found in Appendix A in the [NCSLPH SCOPE: A Guide to Laboratory Services document](#).

For questions, please contact Thomas Lawson, Microbiology Unit Manager at 919-807-8803, or Joanne Touchberry, Enteric Bacteriology Supervisor at 919-807-8793.

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