



Single sample guidelines for contact recreational surveys (MfE 2003)

Mode (Graded 1 to 3)	Safe for recreation? e.g. Swimming Suggested response	E.coli count per 100ml of water
1. Acceptable	GREEN Highly likely to be uncontaminated: 'suitable' for bathing, but requiring water managers to continue surveillance (e.g. routine monitoring)	No single sample greater than 260 E. coli/100 mL
2. Alert	AMBER Potentially contaminated: 'potentially unsuitable', requiring water managers to undertake further investigation to assess the suitability for recreation	One single sample between 261 and 550 E.coli/100 mL
3. Action Required	RED highly likely to be contaminated: 'highly likely to be unsuitable', and requires urgent action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increase sampling to daily * Undertake sanitary survey * Erect warning signs * Inform public through the media that a public health risk exists 	One single sample greater than 550 E.coli/100 mL