



## First in Massachusetts: Barnstable County Water Quality Laboratory Pioneers Automated Bacterial Testing.

Making history in water safety, the Barnstable County Water Quality Laboratory has become the first lab in Massachusetts to receive Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) certification for groundbreaking automated bacterial testing technology.

The MassDEP has certified the Barnstable County Water Quality Laboratory to analyze bacteriological samples using the new IDEXX Tecta automated system—a milestone achievement that positions our county at the forefront of water quality protection.

This certification represents more than just regulatory approval. It confirms that our laboratory has demonstrated the highest standards in generating valid, reliable data for critical contaminant testing using scientific methods approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. We're proud to be the first laboratory in the Commonwealth to achieve this distinction.

### What This Means for Water Safety

The lab is now certified to detect total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria in drinking water using technology that transforms how we protect public health. Unlike traditional methods, IDEXX Tecta is a fully automated system that delivers real-time results directly via email—no waiting, no delays.



### The advantages are immediate and significant:

- **Instant alerts:** When a positive sample is detected, the system immediately sends email notifications, potentially reducing analysis time by several hours.
- **24/7 monitoring:** Automated sample preparation and result interpretation eliminate the need for staff to be physically present to record results.
- **Faster Response:** The sooner we know about contamination, the sooner we can warn residents and take corrective action.

## The Bottom Line: Safer Water, Faster

As the latest bacterial detection technology, Tecta dramatically improves our ability to safeguard drinking water. Speed matters when public health is at stake—every hour saved in testing means faster notification to customers if their water becomes unsafe to drink.

This investment in cutting-edge technology strengthens our Water Lab's mission to protect the community, enhancing both our testing capabilities and our ability to rapidly communicate potential risks.



*The laboratory uses EPA-approved methods to test for total coliform and E. coli bacteria in drinking water.*

**Welcome to the future of water quality testing—and Barnstable County is leading the way.**

