

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ATCC NOW OFFERS THE “BIG SIX” *E. COLI* STRAINS FOR FOOD SAFETY TESTING**

*Representative strains from all six non-O157 Shiga toxin producing E. coli serogroups are available for use as positive and negative controls for food quality control assays*

**July 23, 2012**—[ATCC](http://www.atcc.org), the premier biological materials resource and standards organization, announced that it is now offering strains from each of the six non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) serotypes to the food safety community. The strains referred to as the “Big Six” have been linked to a growing number of foodborne illnesses prompting the U.S. Department of Agriculture to add them to their test regimen. The USDA now requires routine verification testing for the presence of STEC serogroups O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, and O145 in raw beef manufacturing trimmings and other raw ground beef components produced domestically and imported.

“The global community has been experiencing food-associated outbreaks of non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* for years,” said Dr. Raymond Cypess, CEO of ATCC. “Our role is to equip food safety programs with well characterized, standard materials for microbial testing,” he added. Food microbiology laboratories look to the ATCC brand to provide the top-quality microbial strains needed to maintain outstanding programs. Since 1925, ATCC has set the standard for authenticating and distributing biological materials for research, development and quality control testing.

For more information about the ATCC “Big Six” non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) strains, please visit [www.atcc.org](http://www.atcc.org).

**ABOUT ATCC**

*Since 1925, ATCC has operated as an independent, non-profit entity that has helped life science organizations and academic institutions produce innovations that have benefited humankind: creating life saving vaccines, nutritional improvements, cancer research breakthroughs, and safer, more effective medications. With distribution to more than 140 countries and a working relationship with 12 distribution partners, ATCC has the experience, knowledge, rigor, tradition and the global reach to serve academic institutions, government agencies, biotech, biopharma, and research organizations around the world.*

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