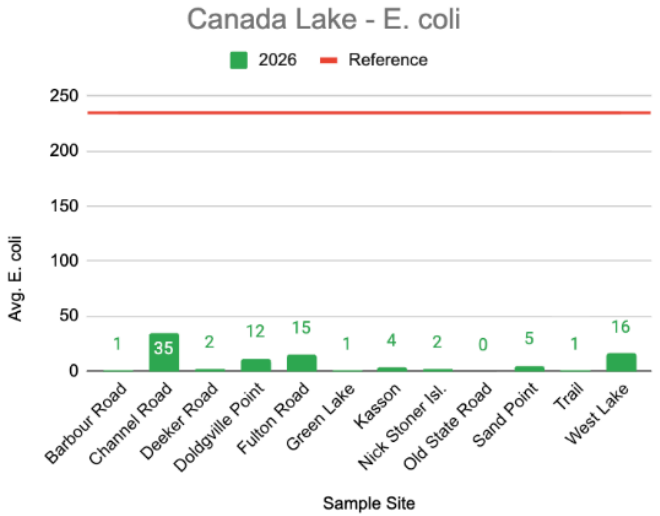
Coliform bacteria are a large, diverse group of microorganisms naturally found in soil, plants, water, and the digestive tracts of animals and humans.

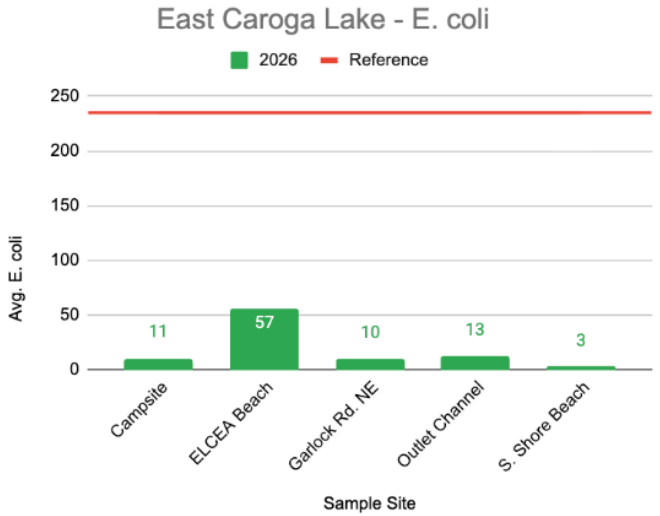
Total coliforms are the largest group, including many species that live harmlessly in the environment. Finding total coliforms in a water sample usually points to an environmental source like soil or surface water seeping into the system. It does not necessarily mean fecal contamination.

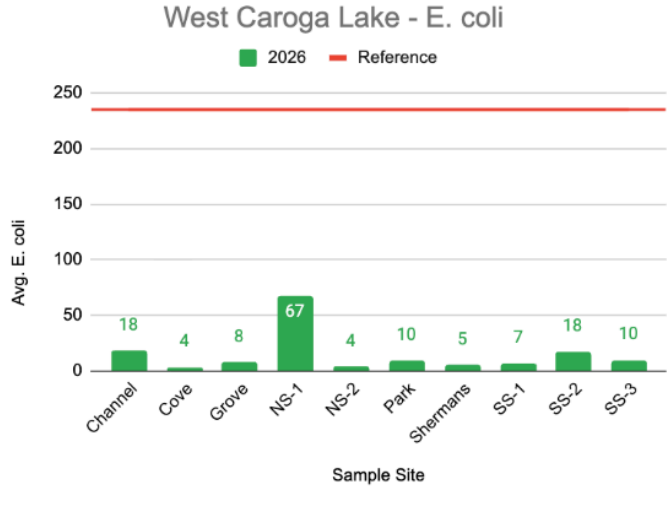
E. coli is a further subset of fecal coliforms and the most specific indicator. Detecting E. coli in a water sample almost always confirms recent fecal contamination.

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E. Coli Sampling by Site (2026)

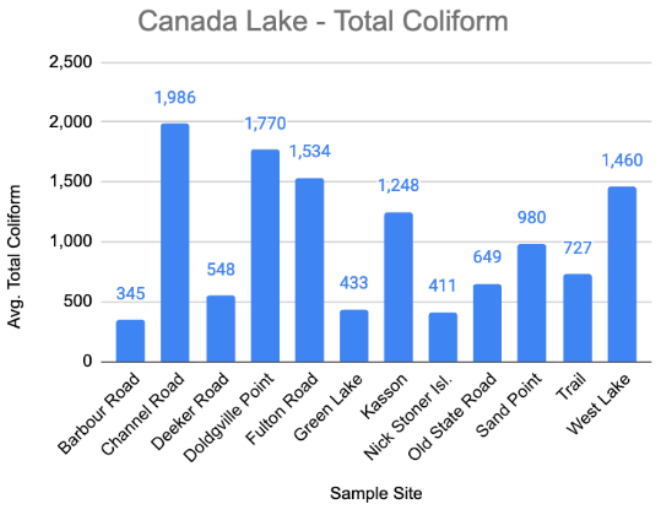


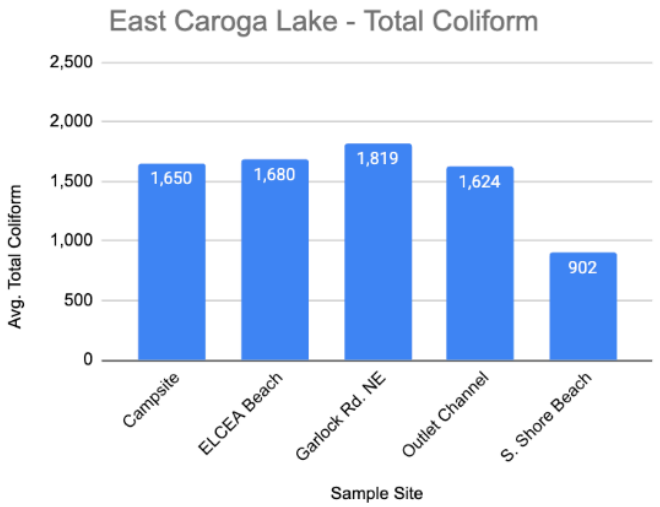


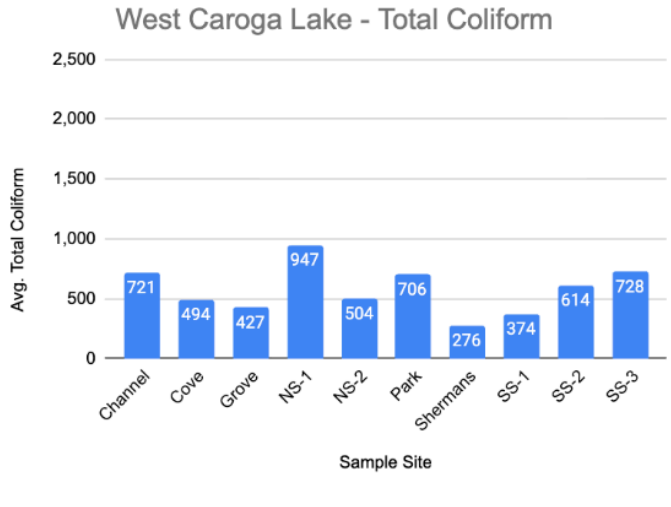


NY State recommends E. coli levels remain below 235 CFU/100 mL (**Reference** line) in bodies of water designated for swimming. Canada Lake, East Caroga, and West Caroga lakes were all below this level at all sites.

Total Coliform Sampling by Site (2026)







Total coliform levels monitored for informational and montioring purposes. There is no standard safety recommendation provided by NYS for total coliform.