Once the user has become proficient in running the qPCR as outlined in the laboratory protocols the following time saving tips can be implemented to help streamline the qPCR process and give results in less time.
• Always complete all autoclaving at least a day before the analysis.

• Set up all working stations (if not permanent in the lab; i.e. the membrane filtration workstation) ahead of time and double check all equipment and supplies in each workstation.

• When filtering water samples, some of them may take longer time to be filtered than others. Using multi channeled manifolds can save a lot of filtering time. When using multi-channel manifolds, you do not always have to wait for all samples to pass completely through the filters. If one sample has passed through its filter completely, then the filter can be removed from its respective funnel by turning off the manifold first. Never leave the filter unattended or for long periods of time while filtering.

• All labeling can be done anytime in advance as long as the labelled items (tubes, petri dishes etc.) are stored in an area where there are not likely to be contaminated (DNA crude extraction tubes and PCR tubes can be stored in racks, in their respective workstations or SmartCycler tubes).

• Prepare all controls ahead of time. The 1X calibrators can be prepared up to a day in advance and stored at 4 °C.

• Prepare the tubes containing method blanks with AE buffer ahead of time. Renew these stocks if a new bottle of AE buffer has been opened.

• Crude DNA extraction tubes can be labeled and assembled in advance and stored in a clean area to avoid possible cross-contamination.

• If using a single tube bead beater, complete bead beating in two samples. Once bead beating is completed, place these two tubes into the microcentrifuge and place the next sample into the bead beater. When the centrifugation is completed, remove the tubes and place them in a test tube rack. From now on, as the extracting and centrifuging continue for the next series of samples, you can use the time to transfer the extracted supernatant to the labeled 1X extract 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube.

• If you are using DNA extraction kits, remember that they may have steps that need to be prepared in advance (e.g., make sure to turn on the water baths ahead of time, or add prepare the working buffer solutions according to the manufacturer's instructions).

• qPCR master mix can be prepared ahead of time on the day it is going to be used, while waiting for the samples.

• You can also set up the qPCR conditions on the computer while waiting for the samples.