



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

**Amended schedules:
1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021**

PHE Food and Water Microbiology External Quality Assessment Schemes



We aim to meet all the dates in this document you will be advised as soon as possible if any changes have to be made.

Please contact us if you do not receive your samples within seven days of the listed dispatch dates

**Public Health England
Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit (FEPTU)**
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5EQ
United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0)20 8327 7119

Fax : + 44 (0)20 8200 8264

Email : foodega@phe.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/external-quality-assessment-ega-and-proficiency-testing-pt-for-food-water-and-environmental-microbiology>

STANDARD SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
328	S0693 S0694	06/07/2020	07/08/2020	<i>Cronobacter</i> spp. detection <i>Listeria</i> spp. (including <i>L. mono</i>) detection <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> detection <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> enumeration Aerobic colony count <i>Escherichia coli</i> enumeration
330	S0697 S0698	31/08/2020	09/10/2020	<i>Campylobacter</i> spp. detection <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. enumeration <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 detection <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection Aerobic colony count <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> enumeration <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>
332	S0701 S0702	02/11/2020	11/12/2020	Presumptive <i>Bacillus cereus</i> enumeration Coagulase-positive staphylococci enumeration <i>Listeria</i> spp. (including <i>L. mono</i>) enumeration <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> enumeration Aerobic colony count Coliform enumeration
334	S0705 S0706	08/03/2021	16/04/2021	<i>Listeria</i> spp. (including <i>L. mono</i>) detection <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> detection <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> enumeration Sulfite-reducing anaerobic bacteria Aerobic colony count <i>Escherichia coli</i> enumeration

Note for this scheme molecular methods can be used for pathogen examination or as a confirmation test

EUROPEAN MICROBIOLOGY LEGISLATION SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Food category	Examinations and enumerations required
EFL53	EFL157 EFL158 EFL159	31/08/2020	02/10/2020	Ready to eat product	According to the Food Safety or Process Hygiene Criteria
EFL54	EFL160 EFL161 EFL162	08/03/2021	09/04/2021	Miscellaneous	

NON-PATHOGEN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
NP066	NP0187 NP0188	06/07/2020	14/08/2020	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. Yeasts Moulds Coliforms <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci
NP067	NP0189 NP0190	25/01/2021	12/03/2021	Lactic acid bacteria Aerobic colony count at 30°C All the above enumerations are included for all samples. An option to register for PYM (<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., yeasts and moulds only) is available

SHELLFISH SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
SF066	SF0140 SF0141	31/08/2020	02/10/2020	<i>Escherichia coli</i> MPN <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection
SF067	SF0142 SF0143	08/03/2021	09/04/2021	

PATHOGENIC VIBRIO SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
V059	V0158 V0159	25/01/2021	26/02/2021	Detection: <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> non-O1 and non-O139 strains <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> Detection and enumeration: <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ENTEROTOXIN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STA044	ST0087 ST0088	02/11/2020	04/12/2020	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> enterotoxin

ENVIRONMENTAL SWAB SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
ES19	ES0037 ES0038	06/07/2020	24/07/2020	<u>Enumeration of hygiene indicator organisms</u> Aerobic colony count <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> <i>Listeria</i> spp.
ES20	ES0039 ES0040	25/01/2021	19/02/2021	<u>Enumeration of hygiene indicator organisms</u> Aerobic colony count <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> <i>Listeria</i> spp.

SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STX9	STX017 STX018	31/08/2020	25/09/2020	Samples can only be examined using molecular methods Detection of the major virulence genes associated with <i>Escherichia coli</i> serogroups O157, O111, O26, O103, O145 and O104:H4 (STEC) Includes detection of <i>stx</i> -coding genes and the presence of the intimin-coding gene <i>eae</i>

NOROVIRUS AND HEPATITIS A VIRUS SCHEME (non accredited)

food and water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
NHV008	NHV0015 NHV0016	25/01/2021	26/02/2021	Detection of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus Optional: Quantification of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus

CAMPYLOBACTER SPP. SCHEME (non accredited)

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
CPT8	CPT022 CPT023 CPT024	25/01/2021	15/02/2021	Enumeration and detection of <i>Campylobacter</i> spp.
CPT9	CPT025 CPT026 CPT027	08/03/2021	29/03/2021	

LEGIONELLA ISOLATION SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
G119	G119A G119B	27/07/2020	04/09/2020	Detection, enumeration and identification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
G120	G120A G120B	28/09/2020	06/11/2020	
G121	G121A G121B	15/02/2021	26/03/2021	

LEGIONELLA MOLECULAR SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
LM8	LM8A LM8B	04/01/2021	12/02/2021	Detection and quantification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.

RECREATIONAL AND SURFACE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
S96	S96A S96B	27/07/2020	28/08/2020	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliforms <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S97	S97A S97B	28/09/2020	30/10/2020	<u>swimming pool / hydrotherapy pool waters:</u> Coagulase-positive staphylococci Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Total staphylococci Colony count (37°C/24 hours)
S98	S98A S98B	04/01/2021	05/02/2021	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.

DRINKING WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
W193	W193A W193B	27/07/2020	28/08/2020	Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci
W194	W194A W194B	28/09/2020	30/10/2020	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Colony count (37°C/48 hours) Colony count (22°C/72 hours)
W195	W195A W195B	15/02/2021	19/03/2021	

BOTTLED AND MINERAL WATER SCHEME
water and food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
BMW25	BMW25A BMW25B	04/01/2021	29/01/2021	Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Sporulated sulphite-reducing anaerobes Colony count (37°C/24 hours) Colony count (22°C/72 hours)

HOSPITAL WATERS

ENDOSCOPE RINSE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
EW25	EW25A EW25B	27/07/2020	21/08/2020	Total viable counts (28°C - 32°C for 5 days) <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
EW26	EW26A EW26B	04/01/2021	29/01/2021	Selected distribution: Yeasts/moulds (EW26)

MYCOBACTERIUM SPP. IN WATER SCHEME

(non accredited)

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
MY005	MY005A MY005B	27/07/2020	16/10/2020	Endoscope rinse water
MY006	MY006A MY006B	15/02/2021	07/05/2021	Heater cooler water

HOSPITAL TAP WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
HTW19	HTW19A HTW19B	28/09/2020	23/10/2020	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
HTW20	HTW20A HTW20B	15/02/2021	12/03/2021	

DIALYSIS WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
DW22	DW22A DW22B	28/09/2020	23/10/2020	Total viable counts (17°C - 23°C for 7 days)
DW23	DW23A DW23B	15/02/2021	12/03/2021	

HYDROTHERAPY POOL WATERS – Please select distribution S97 from Recreational and Surface Water Scheme (see page 8)