



UK Health
Security
Agency

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Schedules: 1 January to 31 December 2024

UKHSA Food and Water Microbiology External Quality Assessment Schemes



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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

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STANDARD SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
368	S0773 S0774	29/01/2024	08/03/2024	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
370	S0777 S0778	11/03/2024	19/04/2024	<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
372	S0781 S0782	13/05/2024	21/06/2024	<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
374	S0785 S0786	01/07/2024	09/08/2024	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
376	S0789 S0790	02/09/2024	11/10/2024	<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
378	S0793 S0794	04/11/2024	13/12/2024	<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>

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

EUROPEAN MICROBIOLOGY LEGISLATION SCHEME

Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs associated with
Regulation (EC) 852/2004 and subsequent amendments

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Food category	Examinations and enumerations required
EFL66	EFL196 EFL197 EFL198	29/01/2024	01/03/2024	Miscellaneous	According to the Food Safety or Process Hygiene Criteria
EFL67	EFL199 EFL200 EFL201	13/05/2024	14/06/2024	Meat	
EFL68	EFL202 EFL203 EFL204	02/09/2024	04/10/2024	Dairy	
EFL69	EFL205 EFL206 EFL207	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	Ready to eat product	

NON-PATHOGEN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
NP076	NP0207 NP0208	29/01/2024	15/03/2024	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. Yeasts Moulds Coliforms <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>
NP077	NP0209 NP0210	13/05/2024	28/06/2024	<i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Lactic acid bacteria Aerobic colony count at 30°C
NP078	NP0211 NP0212	02/09/2024	18/10/2024	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 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
SF076	SF0160 SF0161	11/03/2024	12/04/2024	<i>Escherichia coli</i> MPN <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection
SF077	SF0162 SF0163	01/07/2024	02/08/2024	
SF078	SF0164 SF0165	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	

PATHOGENIC VIBRIO SCHEME
food and water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
V068	V0176 V0177	11/03/2024	12/04/2024	Detection: <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> non-O1 and non-O139 strains <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> Detection and enumeration: <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>
V069	V0178 V0179	01/07/2024	02/08/2024	
V070	V0180 V0181	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ENTEROTOXIN SCHEME
food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STA051	ST0101 ST0102	13/05/2024	14/06/2024	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> enterotoxin
STA052	ST0103 ST0104	02/09/2024	04/10/2024	

ENVIRONMENTAL SWAB SCHEME

environmental microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
ES32	ES0063 ES0064	11/03/2024	05/04/2024	<u>Enumeration of hygiene indicator organisms</u> Aerobic colony count <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae <i>Listeria</i> spp.
ES33	ES0065 ES0066	13/05/2024	07/06/2024	Relevant pathogen relating to outbreak details as provided on the request form – note the list below is not exhaustive <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Coagulase-positive staphylococci <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
ES34	ES0067 ES0068	02/09/2024	27/09/2024	<u>Enumeration of hygiene indicator organisms</u> Aerobic colony count <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae <i>Listeria</i> spp.
ES35	ES0069 ES0070	04/11/2024	29/11/2024	Relevant pathogen relating to outbreak details as provided on the request form – note the list below is not exhaustive <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Coagulase-positive staphylococci <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.

SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STX15	STX029 STX030	29/01/2024	23/02/2024	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)
STX16	STX031 STX032	01/07/2024	26/07/2024	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 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
NHV014	NHV0027 NHV0028	11/03/2024	12/04/2024	Detection of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus
NHV015	NHV0029 NHV0030	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	Optional: Quantification of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus

LEGIONELLA ISOLATION SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required per litre
G133	G133A G133B	08/01/2024	16/02/2024	Detection, enumeration and identification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
G134	G134A G134B	08/04/2024	17/05/2024	
G135	G135A G135B	03/06/2024	12/07/2024	
G136	G136A G136B	30/09/2024	08/11/2024	

LEGIONELLA MOLECULAR SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required per litre Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
LM14	LM14A LM14B	19/02/2024	29/03/2024	Detection and quantification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
LM15	LM15A LM15B	29/07/2024	06/09/2024	

RECREATIONAL AND SURFACE WATER SCHEME

water and environmental microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required <i>Salmonella</i> spp. per litre Colony count per 1mL All other counts are per 100mL
S115	S115A S115B	08/01/2024	09/02/2024	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliforms <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S116	S116A S116B	19/02/2024	22/03/2024	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S117	S117A S117B	08/04/2024	10/05/2024	<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) Colony count (37°C/48 hours)
S118	S118A S118B	03/06/2024	05/07/2024	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliform <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection
S119	S119A S119B	29/07/2024	30/08/2024	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S120	S120A S120B	30/09/2024	01/11/2024	<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) Colony count (37°C/48 hours)

DRINKING WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				Colony count per 1mL All other counts are per 100mL Up to three sets of results can be reported
W212	W212A W212B	08/01/2024	09/02/2024	Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Colony count (37°C/48 hours) Colony count (22°C/72 hours)
W213	W213A W213B	19/02/2024	22/03/2024	
W214	W214A W214B	08/04/2024	10/05/2024	
W215	W215A W215B	03/06/2024	05/07/2024	
W216	W216A W216B	29/07/2024	30/08/2024	
W217	W217A W217B	30/09/2024	01/11/2024	

BOTTLED AND MINERAL WATER SCHEME

water and food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				Sporulated sulphite-reducing anaerobes per 50mL Colony count per 1mL All other counts are per 250mL
BMW34	BMW34A BMW34B	08/01/2024	02/02/2024	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)
BMW35	BMW35A BMW35B	08/04/2024	03/05/2024	
BMW36	BMW36A BMW36B	29/07/2024	23/08/2024	

HOSPITAL WATERS

ENDOSCOPE RINSE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				All counts are per 100mL Up to three sets of results can be reported
EW35	EW35A EW35B	08/01/2024	02/02/2024	Total viable counts (28°C - 32°C for 5 days) <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Selected distribution: Yeasts/moulds (EW35)
EW36	EW36A EW36B	08/04/2024	03/05/2024	
EW37	EW37A EW37B	29/07/2024	23/08/2024	

MYCOBACTERIUM SPP. IN WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2024

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				All levels are per 100mL
MY018	MY018A MY018B	08/01/2024	15/03/2024	Heater cooler water
MY019	MY019A MY019B	08/04/2024	14/06/2024	Endoscope rinse water
MY020	MY020A MY020B	03/06/2024	09/08/2024	Heater cooler water
MY021	MY021A MY021B	30/09/2024	06/12/2024	Endoscope rinse water

HOSPITAL TAP WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2023

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				All counts are per 100mL Up to three sets of results can be reported
HTW29	HTW29A HTW29B	19/02/2024	15/03/2024	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
HTW30	HTW30A HTW30B	03/06/2024	28/06/2024	
HTW31	HTW31A HTW31B	30/09/2024	25/10/2024	

DIALYSIS WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2023

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				All counts are per mL Up to three sets of results can be reported
DW32	DW32A DW32B	19/02/2024	15/03/2024	Total viable counts (17°C - 23°C for 7 days)
DW33	DW33A DW33B	03/06/2024	28/06/2024	
DW34	DW34A DW34B	30/09/2024	25/10/2024	

HYDROTHERAPY POOL WATERS – Please select distributions S117 and S120 from Recreational and Surface Water Scheme (see page 8)