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Schedules:

1 January to 31 December 2021

PHE 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 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
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
336	S0709 S0710	10/05/2021	18/06/2021	<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
338	S0713 S0714	05/07/2021	13/08/2021	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
340	S0717 S0718	06/09/2021	15/10/2021	<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
342	S0721 S0722	01/11/2021	10/12/2021	<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

Please note there is normally six distributions per year of Standard Scheme, the reason there is one less distribution in 2021 is due to the disruption COVID-19 caused to our previous schedule

EUROPEAN MICROBIOLOGY LEGISLATION SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Food category	Examinations and enumerations required
EFL54	EFL160 EFL161 EFL162	08/03/2021	09/04/2021	Miscellaneous	According to the Food Safety or Process Hygiene Criteria
EFL55	EFL163 EFL164 EFL165	05/07/2021	06/08/2021	Meat	
EFL56	EFL166 EFL167 EFL168	01/11/2021	03/12/2021	Dairy	

Please note there normally four distributions per year of European Microbiology Legislation Scheme, the reason there is one less distribution in 2021 is due to the disruption COVID-19 caused to our previous schedule

NON-PATHOGEN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
NP067	NP0189 NP0190	25/01/2021	12/03/2021	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. Yeasts Moulds Coliforms <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>
NP068	NP0191 NP0192	10/05/2021	25/06/2021	<i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Lactic acid bacteria Aerobic colony count at 30°C
NP069	NP0193 NP0194	06/09/2021	22/10/2021	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 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
SF067	SF0142 SF0143	08/03/2021	09/04/2021	<i>Escherichia coli</i> MPN <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection
SF068	SF0144 SF0145	05/07/2021	06/08/2021	
SF069	SF0146 SF0147	01/11/2021	03/12/2021	

PATHOGENIC *VIBRIO* SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 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>
V060	V0160 V0161	05/07/2021	06/08/2021	
V061	V0162 V0163	01/11/2021	03/12/2021	Detection and enumeration: <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ENTEROTOXIN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STA045	ST0089 ST0090	10/05/2021	11/06/2021	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> enterotoxin
STA046	ST0091 ST0092	06/09/2021	08/10/2021	

Please note there normally three distributions per year of *Staphylococcus aureus* Enterotoxin Scheme, the reason there is one less distribution in 2021 is due to the disruption COVID-19 caused to our previous schedule

ENVIRONMENTAL SWAB SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
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.
ES21	ES0041 ES0042	10/05/2021	04/06/2021	Relevant pathogen relating to outbreak details as provided on the request form <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Coagulase-positive staphylococci <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
ES22	ES0043 ES0044	06/09/2021	01/10/2021	<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.
ES23	ES0045 ES0046	01/11/2021	26/11/2021	Relevant pathogen relating to outbreak details as provided on the request form <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Coagulase-positive staphylococci <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>

SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STX10	STX019 STX020	05/07/2021	30/07/2021	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>

Please note there is normally two distributions per year of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* Scheme, the reason there is one less distribution in 2021 is due to the disruption COVID-19 caused to our previous schedule.

NOROVIRUS AND HEPATITIS A VIRUS SCHEME
(non accredited)
 food and water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 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
NHV009	NHV0017 NHV0018	01/11/2021	03/12/2021	

CAMPYLOBACTER SPP. SCHEME
(non accredited)
 food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 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	
CPT10	CPT028 CPT029 CPT030	10/05/2021	31/05/2021	
CPT11	CPT031 CPT032 CPT033	05/07/2021	26/07/2021	
CPT12	CPT034 CPT035 CPT036	06/09/2021	27/09/2021	
CPT13	CPT037 CPT038 CPT039	01/11/2021	22/11/2021	

LEGIONELLA ISOLATION SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
G121	G121A G121B	15/02/2021	26/03/2021	Detection, enumeration and identification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
G122	G122A G122B	05/04/2021	14/05/2021	
G123	G123A G123B	07/06/2021	16/07/2021	
G124	G124A G124B	04/10/2021	12/11/2021	

LEGIONELLA MOLECULAR SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 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.
LM9	LM9A LM9B	02/08/2021	10/09/2021	

RECREATIONAL AND SURFACE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
S98	S98A S98B	04/01/2021	05/02/2021	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S99	S99A S99B	05/04/2021	07/05/2021	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliforms <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S100	S100A S100B	07/06/2021	09/07/2021	<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)
S101	S101A S101B	02/08/2021	03/09/2021	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S102	S102A S102B	04/10/2021	05/11/2021	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliforms <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.

Please note there is normally six distributions per year of Recreational and Surface Water Scheme, the reason there is one less distribution in 2021 is due to the disruption COVID-19 caused to our previous schedule.

DRINKING WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
W195	W195A W195B	15/02/2021	19/03/2021	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)
W196	W196A W196B	05/04/2021	07/05/2021	
W197	W197A W197B	07/06/2021	09/07/2021	
W198	W198A W198B	02/08/2021	03/09/2021	
W199	W199A W199B	04/10/2021	05/11/2021	

Please note there is normally six distributions per year of Drinking Water Scheme, the reason there is one less distribution in 2021 is due to the disruption COVID-19 caused to our previous schedule.

BOTTLED AND MINERAL WATER SCHEME

water and food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 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)
BMW26	BMW26A BMW26B	05/04/2021	30/04/2021	
BMW27	BMW27A BMW27B	02/08/2021	27/08/2021	

HOSPITAL WATERS

ENDOSCOPE RINSE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
EW26	EW26A EW26B	04/01/2021	29/01/2021	Total viable counts (28°C - 32°C for 5 days) <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Selected distribution: Yeasts/moulds (EW26)
EW27	EW27A EW27B	05/04/2021	30/04/2021	
EW28	EW28A EW28B	02/08/2021	27/08/2021	

MYCOBACTERIUM SPP. IN WATER SCHEME

(non accredited)

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
MY006	MY006A MY006B	15/02/2021	07/05/2021	Heater cooler water
MY007	MY007A MY007B	05/04/2021	25/06/2021	Endoscope rinse water
MY008	MY008A MY008B	07/06/2021	27/08/2021	Heater cooler water
MY009	MY009A MY009B	04/10/2021	24/12/2021	Endoscope rinse water

HOSPITAL TAP WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
HTW20	HTW20A HTW20B	15/02/2021	12/03/2021	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
HTW21	HTW21A HTW21B	07/06/2021	02/07/2021	
HTW22	HTW22A HTW22B	04/10/2021	29/10/2021	

DIALYSIS WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2021

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
DW23	DW23A DW23B	15/02/2021	12/03/2021	Total viable counts (17°C - 23°C for 7 days)
DW24	DW24A DW24B	07/06/2021	02/07/2021	
DW25	DW25A DW25B	04/10/2021	29/10/2021	

HYDROTHERAPY POOL WATERS – Please select distribution S100 from Recreational and Surface Water Scheme (see page 8)