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Schedules: 1 January to 31 December 2022

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 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
344	S0725 S0726	31/01/2022	11/03/2022	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
346	S0729 S0730	14/03/2022	22/04/2022	<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
348	S0733 S0734	09/05/2022	17/06/2022	<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
350	S0737 S0738	04/07/2022	12/08/2022	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
352	S0741 S0742	05/09/2022	14/10/2022	<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
354	S0745 S0746	07/11/2022	16/12/2022	<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 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Food category	Examinations and enumerations required
EFL57	EFL169 EFL170 EFL171	31/01/2022	04/03/2022	Ready to eat product	According to the Food Safety or Process Hygiene Criteria
EFL58	EFL172 EFL173 EFL174	14/03/2022	15/04/2022	Miscellaneous	
EFL59	EFL175 EFL176 EFL177	04/07/2022	05/08/2022	Meat	
EFL60	EFL178 EFL179 EFL180	07/11/2022	09/12/2022	Dairy	

NON-PATHOGEN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required Up to three sets of results can be reported
NP070	NP0195 NP0196	31/01/2022	18/03/2022	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. Yeasts Moulds Coliforms
NP071	NP0197 NP0198	09/05/2022	24/06/2022	<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Lactic acid bacteria Aerobic colony count at 30°C
NP072	NP0199 NP0200	05/09/2022	21/10/2022	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 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
SF070	SF0148 SF0149	14/03/2022	15/04/2022	<i>Escherichia coli</i> MPN <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection
SF071	SF0150 SF0151	04/07/2022	05/08/2022	
SF072	SF0152 SF0153	07/11/2022	09/12/2022	

PATHOGENIC VIBRIO SCHEME
food and water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
V062	V0164 V0165	14/03/2022	15/04/2022	Detection: <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> non-O1 and non-O139 strains <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>
V063	V0166 V0167	04/07/2022	05/08/2022	
V064	V0168 V0169	07/11/2022	09/12/2022	Detection and enumeration: <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ENTEROTOXIN SCHEME
food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STA047	ST0093 ST0094	09/05/2022	10/06/2022	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> enterotoxin
STA048	ST0095 ST0096	05/09/2022	07/10/2022	

ENVIRONMENTAL SWAB SCHEME

environmental microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
ES24	ES0047 ES0048	14/03/2022	08/04/2022	<u>Enumeration of hygiene indicator organisms</u> Aerobic colony count <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae <i>Listeria</i> spp.
ES25	ES0049 ES0050	09/05/2022	03/06/2022	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.
ES26	ES0051 ES0052	05/09/2022	30/09/2022	<u>Enumeration of hygiene indicator organisms</u> Aerobic colony count <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae <i>Listeria</i> spp.
ES27	ES0053 ES0054	07/11/2022	02/12/2022	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.

SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
STX11	STX021 STX022	31/01/2022	25/02/2022	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)
STX12	STX023 STX024	04/07/2022	29/07/2022	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 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
NHV010	NHV0019 NHV0020	14/03/2022	15/04/2022	Detection of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus
NHV011	NHV0021 NHV0022	07/11/2022	09/12/2022	Optional: Quantification of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus

LEGIONELLA ISOLATION SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required per litre
G125	G125A G125B	10/01/2022	18/02/2022	Detection, enumeration and identification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
G126	G126A G126B	04/04/2022	13/05/2022	
G127	G127A G127B	06/06/2022	15/07/2022	
G128	G128A G128B	03/10/2022	11/11/2022	

LEGIONELLA MOLECULAR SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required per litre
				Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
LM10	LM10A LM10B	21/02/2022	01/04/2022	Detection and quantification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
LM11	LM11A LM11B	01/08/2022	09/09/2022	

RECREATIONAL AND SURFACE WATER SCHEME

water and environmental microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

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
S103	S103A S103B	10/01/2022	11/02/2022	<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)
S104	S104A S104B	21/02/2022	25/03/2022	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S105	S105A S105B	04/04/2022	06/05/2022	<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
S106	S106A S106B	06/06/2022	08/07/2022	<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)
S107	S107A S107B	01/08/2022	02/09/2022	<u>marine (bathing beach) waters:</u> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S108	S108A S108B	03/10/2022	04/11/2022	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliforms <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.

DRINKING WATER SCHEME

water and environmental microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
W200	W200A W200B	10/01/2022	11/02/2022	<p style="text-align: center;">Colony count per 1mL All other counts are per 100mL</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Up to three sets of results can be reported</p> <p>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)</p>
W201	W201A W201B	21/02/2022	25/03/2022	
W202	W202A W202B	04/04/2022	06/05/2022	
W203	W203A W203B	06/06/2022	08/07/2022	
W204	W204A W204B	01/08/2022	02/09/2022	
W205	W205A W205B	03/10/2022	04/11/2022	

BOTTLED AND MINERAL WATER SCHEME

water and food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
BMW28	BMW28A BMW28B	10/01/2022	04/02/2022	<p style="text-align: center;">Sporulated sulphite-reducing anaerobes per 50mL Colony count per 1mL All other counts are per 250mL</p> <p>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)</p>
BMW29	BMW29A BMW29B	04/04/2022	29/04/2022	
BMW30	BMW30A BMW30B	01/08/2022	26/08/2022	

HOSPITAL WATERS

ENDOSCOPE RINSE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

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
EW29	EW29A EW29B	10/01/2022	04/02/2022	Total viable counts (28°C - 32°C for 5 days) <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Selected distribution: Yeasts/moulds (EW29)
EW30	EW30A EW30B	04/04/2022	29/04/2022	
EW31	EW31A EW31B	01/08/2022	26/08/2022	

MYCOBACTERIUM SPP. IN WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				All levels are per 100mL
MY010	MY010A MY010B	10/01/2022	01/04/2022	Heater cooler water
MY011	MY011A MY011B	04/04/2022	24/06/2022	Endoscope rinse water
MY012	MY012A MY012B	06/06/2022	26/08/2022	Heater cooler water
MY013	MY013A MY013B	03/10/2022	23/12/2022	Endoscope rinse water

HOSPITAL TAP WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

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
HTW23	HTW23A HTW23B	21/02/2022	18/03/2022	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
HTW24	HTW24A HTW24B	06/06/2022	01/07/2022	
HTW25	HTW25A HTW25B	03/10/2022	28/10/2022	

DIALYSIS WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 2022

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
DW26	DW26A DW26B	21/02/2022	18/03/2022	Total viable counts (17°C - 23°C for 7 days)
DW27	DW27A DW27B	06/06/2022	01/07/2022	
DW28	DW28A DW28B	03/10/2022	28/10/2022	

HYDROTHERAPY POOL WATERS – Please select distributions S103 and/or S106 from Recreational and Surface Water Scheme (see page 8)