



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

**Schedules and prices:  
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

# **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 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required <b>Up to three sets of results can be reported</b>
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>
380	S0797 S0798	27/01/2025	07/03/2025	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
382	S0801 S0802	10/03/2025	18/04/2025	<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

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

### food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Food category	Examinations and enumerations required
EFL67	EFL199 EFL200 EFL201	13/05/2024	14/06/2024	Meat	According to the Food Safety or Process Hygiene Criteria
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	
EFL70	EFL208 EFL209 EFL210	27/01/2025	28/02/2025	Miscellaneous	

## NON-PATHOGEN SCHEME

### food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required <b>Up to three sets of results can be reported</b>
NP077	NP0209 NP0210	13/05/2024	28/06/2024	<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp. Yeasts Moulds Coliforms
NP078	NP0211 NP0212	02/09/2024	18/10/2024	<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Lactic acid bacteria Aerobic colony count at 30°C
NP079	NP0213 NP0214	27/01/2025	14/03/2025	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 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
SF077	SF0162 SF0163	01/07/2024	02/08/2024	<i>Escherichia coli</i> MPN <i>Salmonella</i> spp. detection
SF078	SF0164 SF0165	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	
SF079	SF0166 SF0167	10/03/2025	11/04/2025	

## PATHOGENIC *VIBRIO* SCHEME

food and water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
V069	V0178 V0179	01/07/2024	02/08/2024	Detection: <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> non-O1 and non-O139 strains <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i>
V070	V0180 V0181	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	
V071	V0182 V0183	10/03/2025	11/04/2025	Detection and enumeration: <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>

## STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ENTEROTOXIN SCHEME

food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required
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> <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> <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.
ES36	ES0071 ES0072	10/03/2025	04/04/2025	<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 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required <b>Samples can only be examined using molecular methods</b>
STX16	STX031 STX032	01/07/2024	26/07/2024	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>
STX17	STX033 STX034	27/01/2025	21/02/2025	

# NOROVIRUS AND HEPATITIS A VIRUS SCHEME

## (non accredited)

food and water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations required Samples can only be examined using molecular methods
NHV015	NHV0029 NHV0030	04/11/2024	06/12/2024	Detection of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus
NHV016	NHV0031 NHV0032	10/03/2025	11/04/2025	Optional: Quantification of Norovirus GI and GII and Hepatitis A Virus

## LEGIONELLA ISOLATION SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required per litre
G134	G134A G134B	08/04/2024	17/05/2024	Detection, enumeration and identification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
G135	G135A G135B	03/06/2024	12/07/2024	
G136	G136A G136B	30/09/2024	08/11/2024	
G137	G137A G137B	06/01/2025	14/02/2025	

## LEGIONELLA MOLECULAR SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required per litre <b>Samples can only be examined using molecular methods</b>
LM15	LM15A LM15B	29/07/2024	06/09/2024	Detection and quantification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.
LM16	LM16A LM16B	17/02/2025	28/03/2025	

# RECREATIONAL AND SURFACE WATER SCHEME

## water and environmental microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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
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)
S121	S121A S121B	06/01/2025	07/02/2025	<u>river, lake or stream waters:</u> Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci Faecal coliforms <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
S122	S122A S122B	17/02/2025	21/03/2025	<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 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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
W214	W214A W214B	08/04/2024	10/05/2024	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)
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	
W218	W218A W218B	06/01/2025	07/02/2025	
W219	W219A W219B	17/02/2025	21/03/2025	

## BOTTLED AND MINERAL WATER SCHEME

### water and food microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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
BMW35	BMW35A BMW35B	08/04/2024	03/05/2024	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)
BMW36	BMW36A BMW36B	29/07/2024	23/08/2024	
BMW37	BMW37A BMW37B	06/01/2025	31/01/2025	

# HOSPITAL WATERS

## ENDOSCOPE RINSE WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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
EW36	EW36A EW36B	08/04/2024	03/05/2024	Total viable counts (28°C - 32°C for 5 days) <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>  Selected distribution: Yeasts/moulds (EW38)
EW37	EW37A EW37B	29/07/2024	23/08/2024	
EW38	EW38A EW38B	06/01/2025	31/01/2025	

## MYCOBACTERIUM SPP. IN WATER SCHEME

water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Distribution number	Sample numbers	Dispatch date	Date results due by	Examinations and enumerations required
				All levels are per 100mL
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
MY022	MY022A MY022B	06/01/2025	14/03/2025	Heater cooler water

## HOSPITAL TAP WATER SCHEME

### water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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
HTW30	HTW30A HTW30B	03/06/2024	28/06/2024	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
HTW31	HTW31A HTW31B	30/09/2024	25/10/2024	
HTW32	HTW32A HTW32B	17/02/2025	14/03/2025	

## DIALYSIS WATER SCHEME

### water microbiology examinations

Sample schedule for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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
DW33	DW33A DW33B	03/06/2024	28/06/2024	Total viable counts (17°C - 23°C for 7 days)
DW34	DW34A DW34B	03/09/2024	25/10/2024	
DW35	DW35A DW35B	17/02/2025	14/03/2025	

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

**PRICE LIST: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**  
**UKHSA External Quality Assessment - Proficiency Testing for Microbiology**

	Number of distributions in full scheme	Number of samples in each distribution	Price for full scheme £	Price per distribution (if not registering for the full scheme) £
<b>Food microbiology schemes</b>				
<b>Standard</b>	six	two	1,736	310
<b>European Food Microbiology Legislation</b>	four	three	1,248	312
<b>Shellfish</b>	three	two	850	312
<b>Non Pathogen</b>	three	two	650	242
<b>Non-Pathogen PYM option</b>	three	two	237	79
<b>Pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i></b>	three	two	1,029	343
<b><i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Enterotoxin</b>	Two	two	500	250
<b>Environmental Swab</b>	four	two	600	161
<b>Shiga toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i></b>	two	two	386	194
<b>Norovirus and Hepatitis A Virus</b>	two	two	898	449
<b>Water microbiology schemes</b>				
<b><i>Legionella</i> Isolation</b>	four	two	696	194
<b><i>Legionella</i> Molecular</b>	two	two	388	194
<b>Recreational and Surface Water</b>	six	two	1,277	228
<b>Drinking Water</b>	six	two	1,491	265
<b>Bottled and Mineral Water</b>	three	two	681	227
<b>Endoscope Rinse Water</b>	three	two	267	89
<b>Dialysis Water</b>	three	two	267	89
<b>Hospital Tap Water</b>	three	two	258	86
<b><i>Mycobacterium</i> spp. in Water</b>	four	two	456	114

**Dispatch charges:**

An additional charge will be made for dispatch to laboratories outside the United Kingdom. The charge will be kept to a minimum and does not include local airport tax charges which participants must arrange and cover

**Additional samples**

Additional samples are available with every distribution for £55 per sample

**Repeat samples:**

Repeat samples are free of charge - available only after a distribution has closed

**Discount:**

An invoice value of £4,000 (excluding VAT) will be entitled to a 5% discount  
The above prices do not include VAT (Value Added Tax)

If your laboratory does not participant in all distributions for a scheme the assessment of laboratory performance over time may be compromised

For more information see our website:

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