

Summary of Results

External Quality Assessment of Food Microbiology

Pathogenic *Vibrio* Scheme

Distribution Number: V071

Sample Numbers: V0182, V0183

Distribution Date:	March 2025
Results Due:	11 April 2025
Report Date:	14 May 2025
Samples prepared and quality control tested by:	Divya George Afifa Halim Nafeesa Hussain Cansev Katar Sabine Naujokat Zak Prior Jake Videlefsky
Data analysed by:	Joanna Donn Nita Patel
Report compiled by:	Joanna Donn Nita Patel
Authorised by:	Nita Patel

This report must not be reproduced without permission of the organisers.

UK Health Security Agency
Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit (FEPTU)
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5EQ
Tel: +44 (0)20 8327 7119
Fax:

For general information about the scheme please refer to:

Scheme Guide: <https://www.feptu.org.uk/schemes/scheme-guide/>

For more specific information about results assessments, scoring systems, statistics, and guidance on analysing your results for the proficiency testing samples please refer to:

Guide to Scoring: <https://www.feptu.org.uk/schemes/scoring/>

All strains of *V.cholerae* are covered by the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act, 2001.

UK Health Security Agency holds a licence from the United Kingdom Department of Trade and Industry for exporting *V.cholerae* to countries in the European Union only. None of the samples will contain strains of *V.cholerae* O1 or O139.

Non-O1 *V.cholerae* does not seem to cause sweeping epidemics, unlike *V.cholerae* O1 and *V.cholerae* O139, but explosive outbreaks have been caused by a few non O1-strains.

European Union (EU) participants

Please be aware that samples containing *V.cholerae* may require an export licence if exported outside the EU.

United Kingdom (UK) participants

The samples contain an organism (*V.cholerae*) that appears on Schedule 5 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act, 2001 and is therefore subject to control if you keep this organism. We strongly recommend that you destroy the isolate as soon as you have completed your investigations.

FEPTU Quality Control: To demonstrate stability of the sample, a minimum of six freeze-dried vials, selected randomly from a batch, are examined throughout the distribution period, either for enumeration or for pathogen detection.

FEPTU results are determined using methods based on ISO methods and are included in the 'intended results' letters which provide guidance for participants regarding the assigned values.

Intended results letters are posted on the website immediately after every distribution; electronic notification of their availability is sent to all participants.

Refer to section 19.0 of the Scheme Guide if you have experienced difficulties with any of the examinations.

<https://www.feptu.org.uk/schemes/scheme-guide/>

All participants are reminded that incorrect or incomplete identification of vibrios isolated from food samples could have serious public health implications. Similarly, the levels of vibrios reported in the sample may affect the subsequent outcome for the product.

Scores are not allocated for results reported for the Pathogenic *Vibrio* Scheme.

Please contact FEPTU staff for advice and information:

Repeat samples	Carmen Gomes or Kermin Daruwalla	Tel: +44 (0)20 8327 7119
Data Analysis	Nita Patel	Fax:
Microbiological advice	Nita Patel or Zak Prior	Email: foodeqa@ukhsa.gov.uk
General comments and complaints	Nita Patel or Zak Prior	FEPTU's website
Scheme consultants	Melody Greenwood	
Scheme Co-ordinator	Nita Patel	

Accreditation: UKHSA Food EQA Scheme for Pathogenic *Vibrio* is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to ISO/IEC 17043:2010.



0006

Sample: V0182

Contents

Vibrio parahaemolyticus (3.0×10^4) (wild strain), *Vibrio vulnificus* (4.0×10^2) (wild strain), *Pseudomonas* sp. (1.0×10^3) (wild strain)

All levels are presented as colony forming units (cfu) per ml reconstituted sample

Expected Results:

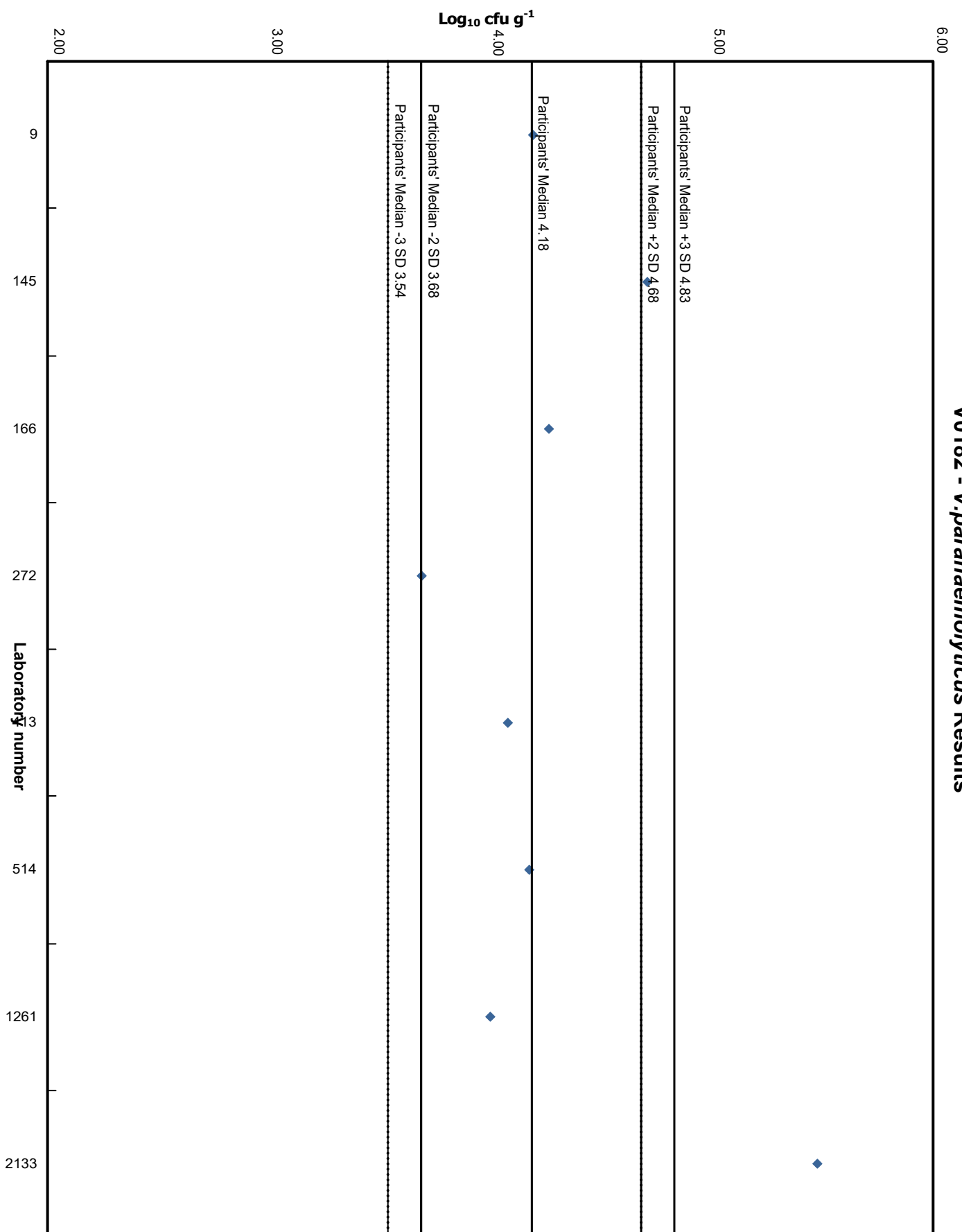
Examination	Expected Result	Your Result	UKHSA Comment
<i>V.cholerae</i>	Not detected		
<i>V.parahaemolyticus</i>	Detected		
<i>V.vulnificus</i>	Detected		

Total participants reporting for pathogenic vibrios	22
Participants who examined for <i>V.cholerae</i>	19
Participants reporting correctly <i>V.cholerae</i> as absent	19 (100%)
Participants who examined for <i>V.parahaemolyticus</i>	21
Participants reporting correctly <i>V.parahaemolyticus</i> as present	21 (100%)
Participants who examined for <i>V.vulnificus</i>	17
Participants reporting correctly <i>V.vulnificus</i> as present	12 (71%)
Total participants enumerating <i>V.parahaemolyticus</i>	9
Participants' reporting low censored values	0
Participants' reporting high censored values	1
Assigned value (Participants' median)	1.5×10^4 cfu g ⁻¹ (4.18 log ₁₀)
No. of outlying counts	2 (0 low / 2 high)
Participants' mean	2.1×10^4 cfu g ⁻¹ (4.32 log ₁₀)
Standard deviation (MADE) of participants' results *	0.22 log ₁₀ unit per 100g
FEPTU QC median	3.2×10^4 cfu g ⁻¹ (4.51 log ₁₀)

Total sent sample	24
Non-returns	0
Not examined	3

* Robust S^* based on median absolute deviation about the participants' median (*MADe*).

V0182 - *V.parahaemolyticus* Results



Sample: V0183

Contents

Vibrio parahaemolyticus (3.6x10³) (wild strain), *Vibrio cholerae* (1.20x10³) (wild strain), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (5.6x10³) (wild strain)

All levels are presented as colony forming units (cfu) per ml reconstituted sample

Expected Results:

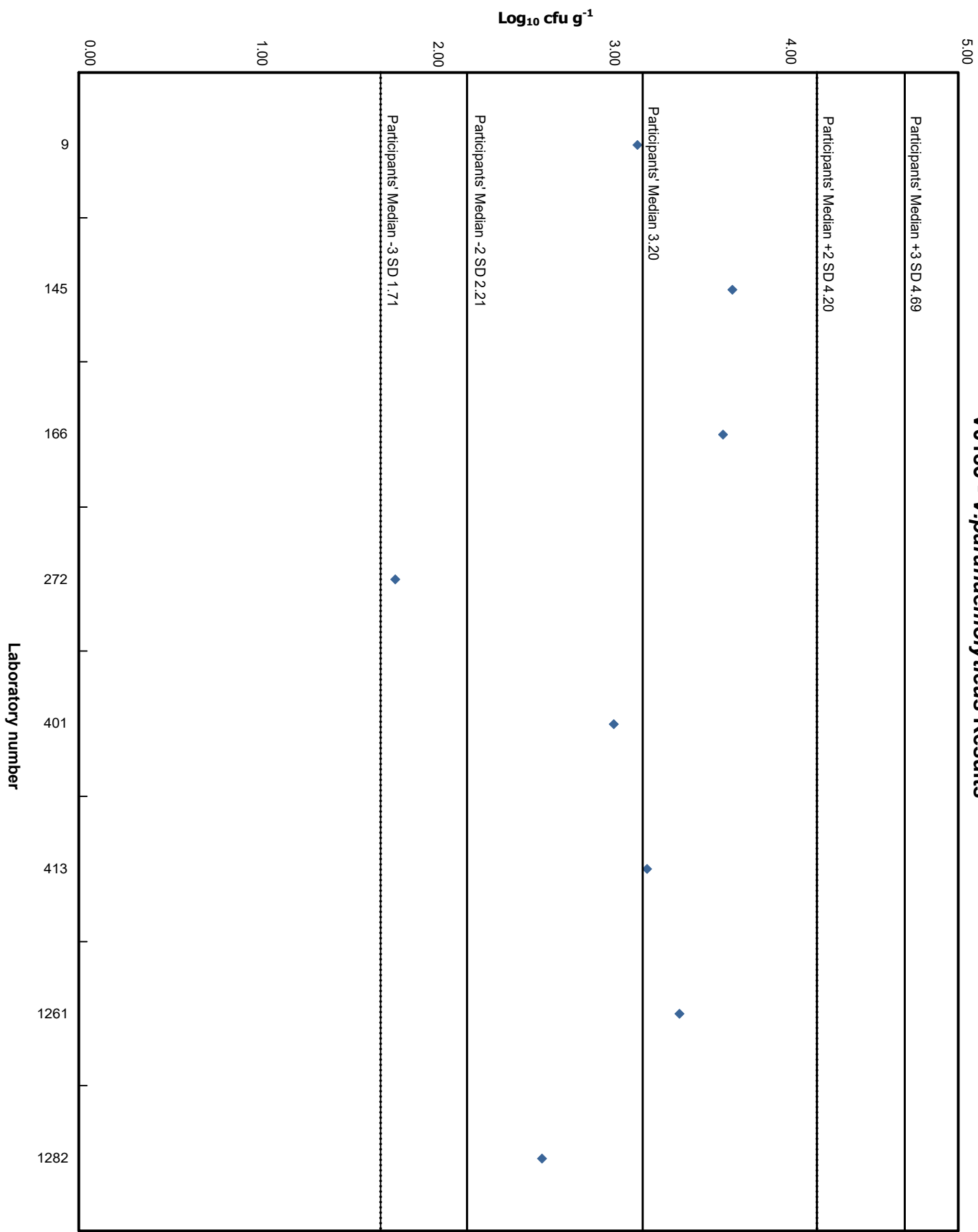
Examination	Expected Result	Your Result	UKHSA Comment
<i>V.cholerae</i>	Detected		
<i>V.parahaemolyticus</i>	Detected		
<i>V.vulnificus</i>	Not detected		

Total participants reporting for pathogenic vibrios	22
Participants who examined for <i>V.cholerae</i>	20
Participants reporting correctly <i>V.cholerae</i> as present	18 (90%)
Participants who examined for <i>V.parahaemolyticus</i>	21
Participants reporting correctly <i>V.parahaemolyticus</i> as present	19 (90%)
Participants who examined for <i>V.vulnificus</i>	17
Participants reporting correctly <i>V.vulnificus</i> as absent	15 (88%)
Total participants enumerating <i>V.parahaemolyticus</i>	9
Participants' reporting low censored values	1
Participants' reporting high censored values	0
Participants' median	1.6x10 ³ cfu g ⁻¹ (3.2 log ₁₀)
No. of outlying counts	1 (1 low / 0 high)
Participants' mean	1.2x10 ³ cfu g ⁻¹ (3.08 log ₁₀)
Standard deviation (MADe) of participants' results	0.5 log ₁₀ unit per 100g
FEPTU QC median	3.3x10 ³ cfu g ⁻¹ (3.52 log ₁₀)

Total sent sample	24
Non-returns	0
Not examined	3

* Robust S^* based on median absolute deviation about the participants' median ($MADe$).

V0183 - *V.parahaemolyticus* Results



General distribution comment

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay in closing this distribution (original date 11 April 2025 and closed 12 May 25) and the subsequent publishing of this scheme report. This was due to an extension granted for some countries where there were shipment issues. FEPTU reference number: FPD25-1.

If you do not return a result for a distribution, you will not be able to view all the participants' results data in your individualised report. To access this missing data contact us on foodeqa@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Statistical evaluation

Participants are advised that for a robust statistical evaluation at least 20 reported results are required for a parameter. When statistical calculation is based on 10 – 19 results, they should be interpreted with caution as they may be overly influenced by outlying results. This is the reason why the standard deviation of the enumeration results reported can be wide.

New website

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website: <https://www.feptu.org.uk/>. Please refer to this website to obtain the latest information for your proficiency testing.

Information of importance

To understand more about the proficiency testing schemes, please use the following links for information on:

1. Report format explained: [Annotated report](#)
2. Performance rating: [Performance-over-time](#) and [Scheme guide](#) (section 16.0)
3. Scoring and statistics used: [Scoring information and stats](#)
4. Homogeneity and stability: [Scheme guide](#) (section 9.0)
5. Complaints and appeal process: [Scheme guide](#) (section 20.0 and 21.0)

For further information about the operation of the service including confidentiality and terms of participation, please refer to the Scheme Guide: [Scheme guide](#)

End of report.

