FEPTU
Food & Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit
Operated by UK Health Security Agency

Pathogenic *Vibrio* Scheme

Unrivalled experts as a PT provider - giving you confidence in your test results



This unique microbiology scheme provides proficiency testing (PT) samples to laboratories that examine *Vibrio* spp. in food and water samples. This scheme challenges the detection of predominant species of vibrio that are of public health concern. Also included as part of the scheme design is enumeration of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus.*

This PT scheme helps you to identify gaps in your processes, highlighting where quality improvements can be made. It also provides an opportunity to improve staffs knowledge and experience with organisms not frequently encountered.

UKHSA's Pathogenic *Vibrio* Scheme focuses on raising awareness of:

- the different *Vibrio* spp. that may be isolated from food or water samples
- the limitations of confirmation tests for *Vibrio* spp.
- culture media and batch to batch variations that may exist when analysing food or water samples
- the challenges associated with enumerating *V. parahaemolyticus* in food samples
- the increasing significance of other *Vibrio* spp. in food or water samples

Examinations for this scheme are:

Detection
V. cholerae non-O1 and non O139 strains
V. vulnificus

Detection and enumeration
V. parahaemolyticus

Three distributions available per year, each containing two samples

Examine samples → Return results → Receive intended results → Receive personalised report

Your laboratory's personalised report will contain information such as:

- the contents and the levels of the sample
- performance data for each examination for you to compare your performance against other laboratories
- your on-going performance over a year which demonstrates your commitment to quality to clients and colleagues
- where relevant actions to take to ensure that your laboratory retains high standards of testing
- educational information on difficult and challenging samples

For your investigation repeat samples are provided free of charge and further expertise can be provided by our panel of renowned food and water microbiologists

Satisfactory performance with your PT provides assurance that your laboratory is compliant with testing standards, thereby meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements.

Contact the Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit:
Tel: +44(0)20 8327 7119 email: foodeqa@ukhsa.gov.uk

UKAS PROFICIENCY TESTING
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Assisting laboratories world wide in maintaining standards of excellence



Food, water and environmental laboratories play a vital role in protecting the public's health by helping to ensure that food is safe to consume, waters are safe to drink and that environmental and recreational waters do not make people ill.

Proficiency testing or external quality assessment provides laboratories with an independent external assessment of their performance. Regular participation in proficiency testing schemes is an important part of laboratories quality procedures and helps to ensure that the results of their tests are accurate.

With over 35 years of experience, UK Health Security Agency's Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit is a world leader in providing microbiology proficiency testing schemes to food, water and environmental laboratories both in the UK and in over 70 countries internationally.

Our dedicated team of experts has unrivalled professional, scientific and technical expertise in proficiency testing. Participants also have the additional advantage of drawing on the full scientific resources of UKHSA.

Benefits of participating in UK Health Security Agency's food and water proficiency testing schemes:

- unique schemes provided based on current legislation
- inclusion of organisms such as *Mycobacterium* spp. in endoscope and heater cooler waters
- free of charge repeat samples
- access to expert food and water microbiologists
- bespoke schemes reports provided
- UKHSA and z-scores provided in some scheme reports
- ability to make extremely low level samples
- on-going performance assessment in the reports
- samples provided in easy to use LENTICULE® discs
- samples provided in easy to use formats

PT Schemes available include:

Environmental Swab

European Food Microbiology Legislation

Standard Scheme

Non-Pathogen

Norovirus and Hepatitis A virus*

Pathogenic *Vibrio*

Shellfish

Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*

Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin

Bottled and Mineral Water

Dialysis Water

Drinking Water

Endoscope Rinse Water

Hospital Tap Water

Legionella Isolation

Legionella Molecular

Recreational and Surface Water

Mycobacterium spp. in Water

Wastewater*

Schemes are accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to the international standard ISO/IEC 17043:2023 *not accredited