



Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit

The final date for return of results is indicated on the accompanying request/report form

Contact details:

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Results should be returned on-line using the web-based reporting system. Go to: www.phe-eqa.org.uk. You will need your log-in details for this process. Please contact us if you experience problems with the on-line system.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/external-quality-assessment-ega-and-proficiency-testing-pt-for-food-water-and-environmental-microbiology#hospital-tap-water-scheme

Hospital Tap Water Scheme – Instruction Sheet

The LENTICULE® discs are provided in screw-cap plastic vials (with a desiccant). Each LENTICULE disc rests on the filter support containing the desiccant. The **desiccant** should be orange in colour. Please contact us if this is not the case. Each LENTICULE disc requires reconstitution by a process of rehydration and dispersion prior to examination, as described below.

Important information to note:

You can now analyse and report up to three sets of results for the Hospital Tap Water Scheme.

Refer also to the Safety Data Sheet: www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-data-sheet-for-lenticules

For a video on sample processing click on the link below and scroll to the bottom of the webpage:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/hospital-tap-water-scheme-sample-instruction-sheets

Storage:

- Store the samples at $-20 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ on receipt.
- Allow the LENTICULE discs to reach ambient temperature (5 - 10 minutes) **before** reconstituting in diluent.

Reconstitution:

- Open the sample container and transfer the LENTICULE disc into approximately **9mL** 0.1% peptone saline (maximum recovery diluent (MRD)) that has been allowed to reach ambient temperature.
- Leave to stand at ambient temperature for 10 -12 minutes to rehydrate.
- Tighten the cap of the bottle and shake to disperse the micro-organisms.
- Transfer all the inoculated MRD to a sample bottle containing 1L sterile deionised or distilled water at ambient temperature.
- Rinse with approximately 2mL from the sample bottle, ensuring all liquid is transferred back to the 1L sample.
- Disperse the inoculum by inverting approximately 30 times.

Examination:

- Each reconstituted sample is equivalent to 1L water.
- Undertake the sample examinations between 30 - 45 minutes of reconstitution.
- Examine in accordance with your routine procedures.

Return of Results:

- Return your results on-line using the web-based reporting system.
- The distribution will be closed on the deadline date for return of results.
- Results cannot be accepted after the distribution has closed.