



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-ega.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#public-health-scheme

Public Health Scheme - Instruction Sheet for swab samples

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.

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

Storage:

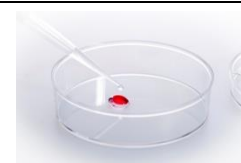
- Store the samples at **-20 ± 5°C** on receipt.
- Allow the LENTICULE discs to reach ambient temperature (5 - 10 minutes) **before** reconstituting in diluent.

Reconstitution:

- Open the sample container and transfer the LENTICULE disc to a sterile petri dish.



- Add 100uL of maximum diluent (MRD) to the LENTICULE that has been allowed to reach ambient temperature. Leave for 10 minutes.



- Open the swab packet and absorb the dissolved solution onto the swab.



- Place the swab back into its original packet and snap of the handle by bending the handle back and forth and discard the handle. Close the bag.



Examination:

- The inoculated swab (1:10) is your sample for examination.
- Undertake the sample examinations within 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.