



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

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March 16, 2021

RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of March 29-April 2, 2021

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Monday, March 29th in observance of Seward's Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **March 29-April 2** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted on Tuesday Mar. 30, Wednesday Mar. 31, and by noon on Thursday Apr. 1.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 30, Wednesday Mar. 31, Thursday Apr. 1, and by noon on Friday Apr. 2.
- Wet Storage samples will be accepted on Tuesday Mar. 30 and by noon on Wednesday Mar. 31.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 30, Wednesday Mar. 31, and by noon on Thursday Apr. 1, however meat samples are pooled for efficiency, generally once a week.
- Slaughter sponge samples are good for 24 hours per USDA. Sponges will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 30, Wednesday Mar. 31, and by noon on Thursday Apr. 1, unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Tuesday Mar. 30– Friday Apr. 2, however the testing will be conducted when samples are pooled for efficiency.
- Dairy testing is scheduled once a month, as usual, and is already scheduled for the weeks of Mar. 15th & Apr. 12th.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research testing is scheduled approximately once a month and is next scheduled for the week of Apr. 12th.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, April 5, 2021.

Assistance is available with timing of sample collections, completion of submission forms, packaging, temperature requirements, shipping, and sample tracking. Sampling questions, planned sampling activities, and shipping notifications, can be made to DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov or 907-375-8231.

Regards,

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory