



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

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December 11, 2024

RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of December 23-27, 2024

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Wednesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **December 23-December 27** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted by noon Monday Dec. 23 and by noon Thursday Dec. 26.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 23, by noon Tuesday Dec. 24, Thursday Dec. 26, and by noon Friday Dec. 27.
- Wet Storage samples will be accepted by noon ONLY on Tuesday Dec. 24.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 23, by noon Tuesday Dec. 24, and by noon Thursday Dec. 26, 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 Monday Dec. 23 and by noon Tuesday Dec. 24, and by noon Thursday Dec. 26 unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 23, by noon Tuesday Dec. 24, Thursday Dec. 26, and Friday Dec. 27, however the testing will be conducted when samples are pooled for efficiency.
- Dairy testing is scheduled once a month, as usual, and is scheduled for the week of Dec. 16th and then Jan. 6th.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research (PCOX) sample will be accepted any workday; however, the testing will be as soon as possible given current backlog.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, January 6, 2025.

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

Regards,

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory