



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental
Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

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December 4, 2023

RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of Jan. 1-5, 2024

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **Jan. 1- Jan. 5** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted on Tuesday Jan. 2, Wednesday Jan. 3, and by noon on Thursday Jan. 4.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted Tuesday Jan. 2, Wednesday Jan. 3, Thursday Jan. 4, and by noon on Friday Jan. 5.
- Wet Storage samples will be accepted by 3pm Tuesday Jan. 2.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Tuesday Jan. 2, Wednesday Jan. 3, and by noon on Thursday Jan. 4, 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 Jan. 2, Wednesday Jan. 3, and by noon on Thursday Jan. 4, unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Tuesday Jan. 2– Friday Jan. 5, 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. 11 and then Jan. 8.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research (PCOX) sample will be accepted Tuesday Jan. 2– Friday Jan. 5, however the testing will be as soon as possible given current backlog.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024.

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