PLEASE FOLLOW GUIDANCE BELOW. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF TEST RESULTS.

SAMPLE TYPE	TEMP/ TRANSPORT CONDITIONS	RECOMMENDED PROCESSING REQUIREMENT	ACCEPTABLE PROCESSING REQUIREMENT	NOTES
Endoscope washer disinfector final rinse water	2 – 5°C in the dark.	Within 4 hours after collection	Store at 2-5°C; within 24 hours after collection	*Reference HTM01-06:Part E _ Section 6.79 DoH March 2016*
Reverse osmosis water	2 –5 °C in the dark.	Within 4 hours after collection	Store at 2-5°C; within 24 hours after collection	*Reference HTM01-06:Part E Section 6.79Doh march 2016*
Hospital Tap Waters for Pseudomonas aeruginosa	2-8 °C	Within 2 hours after collection	Store at 2-8°C; within 24 hours after collection	*HTM 04-01: Part B: Appendix E Water sampling for P. aeruginosa: p76*
Water for Mycobacteria	2 –8 °C in the dark	Day of sampling	Store at 2 – 8°C in the dark; within 24 hours after collection	
Mains drinking water	2 –8 °C in the dark.	Day of sampling	Store at 2 – 8°C in the dark; within 24 hours after collection	*Reference ISO19458:2006 Potable water samples should not be transported in the same container as Surface waters.*
Surface water	2 – 8°C in the dark	Day of sampling	Store at 2 – 8°C in the dark; within 24 hours after collection	*Reference ISO19458:2006*
Recreational pool water	2 – 8°C in the dark	Day of sampling	Store at 2 – 8°C in the dark; within 24 hours after collection	*Reference ISO19458:2006*
All water for Legionella tests	6-18 °C in the dark	Day of sampling	Store at 6-18°C in the dark; within 24 hours after collection	*Reference ISO19458:2006 BS EN ISO 11731-2:2008*
Environmental Monitoring Plates and broth tests	Ambient	Day of sampling **Optimal time and method of collection Contact Plates:** 1. Press the agar surface onto the surface to be sampled, rock slightly from side to side then carefully remove from the surface and replace the lid.	Keep at 1-8 °C; within 24H after exposure	*Examining food, water and environmental samples from healthcare environments Microbiological guidelines. UKHSA 2025*

		2. Use an alcohol wipe to remove any agar debris from the surface that has been sampled. 3. Place the plates in a sterile plastic bag, seal and label clearly. 4. Store the plates at between 1 and 8°C and return to the laboratory as soon as possible to ensure that they are processed on the day of collection or at least within 24 hours of collection. **Settle Plates:** 1. Place agar plate (containing selective or non-selective agar, depending on organisms of interest) on a flat surface in the test location, and expose the agar surface by removing the lid. 2. Leave the agar exposed for the agreed period of time (this may vary depending on the likely level of contamination in the test environment, but time periods of at least 30 minutes, and up to 4 hours, are usually recommended). Monitor the exposure time with a timer. 3. Replace the lid, place the plates in a sterile plastic bag, seal and label clearly. 4. Store the plates at between 1 and 8oC and return to the laboratory as soon as possible to ensure that they are processed on the day of collection or at least within 24 hours of collection.		
Environmental swab	2 – 8°C in the dark	Day of sampling	Not applicable	
Other	**Please contact laboratory for advice.**			

For those that need to be maintained at 2-5/8°C please make sure ICE PACKS DO NOT TOUCH SAMPLE CONTAINERS.