

**Bathing Water and Health:
Joint Environmental Health Service & Public Health Medicine Training Day**

MINI QUIZ

<p>Q.1</p>	<p>What does the updated guidance suggest in relation to Inlet Stream signage?</p> <p>The HSE recommends that local authorities should erect signage at all inlet streams which cross bathing beaches to warn the public about the potential risk of paddling or children playing in these coastal stream inlets unless the local authorities have performed risk assessments and sampling programmes which find that the water in the inlet stream is free at all times from contamination or mitigation measures have been taken. Based on the outcome of risk assessments either temporary or permanent warning/restriction signage should be erected at the inlet streams advising the public “do not paddle/do not play”.</p> <p><u>Reference: Section 2.3 Pages 5 & 6.</u></p>
<p>Q.2</p>	<p>You have obtained / are made aware of a result of a bathing water sample taken from a popular blue flag beach indicating a result of 750 E coli / 100ml, the day after the sample was taken. An Intestinal Enterococci (I.E.) result will not be available for at least another 24 hours? What action(s), if any, do you take?</p> <p><u>Advise Local Authority to monitor situation and re-sample. Decision based on evidence available/details of pollution event.</u> <u>Reference: Actions level table.</u></p>
<p>Q.3</p>	<p>BW & Health includes a guide to action in relation to microbiological exceedances in : Table 1: Action levels in response to microbiological sample results. The updated Guidance suggests a precautionary approach where results are close to HSE bacterial action levels.</p> <p>This would permit the recommendation of a prohibition notice in certain circumstances when there is an:</p> <p>(a) E coli result of? <u>> 1,800/100ml</u></p> <p>or</p> <p>(b) I.E. result of? <u>> 225 I.E./100ml</u></p> <p><u>Reference: Actions level table - 10% rule.</u></p>
<p>Q.4</p>	<p>The updated guidance includes <i>Appendix 6: Marine Algal Bloom Guidance</i> What actions are suggested in the document in relation to first steps where an algal bloom event is suspected in a seaside bathing area, to rule out the possibility of it being an algal bloom?</p> <p><u>Advise Local Authority to :</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1. Determine extent of suspect bloom (size of area involved, presence of scum in bathing location) and eliminate obvious cause (turbidity/discolouration due to weather/wave action/localised activity) which could give rise to such characteristics</u> <u>2. Get a preliminary laboratory analysis if possible to confirm biological agent rather than suspended matter (suspended sediment, broken-up seaweed, detritus, wastewater overflow etc.)</u> <u>3. Take a photograph of suspected bloom in situ and submit to joe.silke@marine.ie</u> <p><u>Reference: Page 22 , Appendix 6: Marine Algal Bloom Guidance, Bathing Water & Health</u></p>

Q.5 A prohibition notice is in place due to high levels of enteric bacteria obtained on routine sampling from an isolated beach surrounded by farmland, some of which is used for slurry spreading. What criteria are required in order to be able to recommend lifting of the notice?

Section 4.5 Criteria for HSE agreement to lifting an advisory or prohibition notice:

(b) In the event of an incident of contamination without any human illness: Prior to the lifting of an Advisory or Prohibition Notice at least one satisfactory sample of bathing water must be obtained. This sample should be a confirmed and not a presumptive result. This sample should indicate a level of Ecoli less than 500 cfu/100ml **and** an intestinal enterococci level of less than 200 cfu.100ml, at a minimum but with due regard to the beach profile and the normal background levels for that location. See Appendix 1.3 for further detail on determining normal background levels.