NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION
Raleigh, North Carolina

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

MPID NOTICE	**6-26**	**4-17-2026**

Microbiological Laboratory Notifications and Results for MPID Samples

I. PURPOSE

This document is issued to provide instructions for MPID office staff when relaying lab sampling schedule notifications and results to MPID personnel. It also provides instructions for the ASC Laboratory in notifying MPID of available lab sampling results.

II. CANCELATION

MPID Notice 12-25 dated 7-2-2025

III. REFERENCES

None

IV. ACCESSING THE MPID SAMPLING SCHEDULE

The MPID Sampling Schedule for State plants is located in the AGR–MeatAndPoultry Sharepoint site on the NCAGR Intranet.

V. SCHEDULED MPID SAMPLING NOTIFICATION TO FIELD PERSONNEL

1. The primary person responsible for creating and emailing the scheduled sample notifications to MPID field personnel is Sabrina Iczkovits. In Sabrina's absence, the order of responsibility moves from Sabrina to Sharmila Logendran to Ashleigh Austin to Codi Brandon to Lisa Benton.

2. Each Thursday, an email should be sent to all field inspection personnel with cc to Urvashi Patel, Yvonne Wong, Kyle Szwetkowski, Jaraan Harbor, Ashleigh Austin, Codi Brandon, Lisa Benton, Jake Groce, Matthew Walters, Sharmila Logendran and Dr. Karen Beck regarding upcoming scheduled MPID samplings.

   The email will contain scheduled samplings that are to occur three weeks after the notification. For example, on Thursday, June 19th, 2025, notifications were sent for the week of July 6th, 2025.

3. To prepare the notification email, the designated individual (see item V. 1.) will first review the MPID Sampling Schedule to determine what samples require notification.

a. State-inspected establishments that are part of the sampling program are listed by area in alphabetical order on separate rows in the first column in the MPID Sampling Schedule file. Each week of the year is represented by a column to the right. Samples for each week are indicated by a sample code placed in the row for the appropriate establishment. An explanation of the sample codes can be found on a separate tab located at the bottom of the file designated as "CODES."

4. The email notification shall include the following:

   a. The following State-inspected establishments are scheduled for microbiological sampling the week of (*insert the week here for which sample notifications are being made* for *and highlight it in a noticeable color*):

   b. Sample collection boxes should arrive no later than (*insert the date here for when boxes should arrive; this date should be two Fridays prior to the sample collection week and highlighted in a noticeable color*). If you have not received the box by then or are missing supplies, notify the Raleigh Office immediately.

   c. Inspectors should notify their supervisor and email MPIDSampling@ncagr.gov when a sample cannot be collected. They should hold onto the lab supplies and collaborate via that email address for the next available collection date.

   d. Each sample on the schedule for the week of notification should be organized by Area and include the following information:

      i. Establishment Name
      ii. Establishment Number
      iii. Product being sampled (found in the Definition column in the CODES tab in the MPID Sampling Schedule)
      iv. Sampling Category (e.g., VLV, 03G) and
      v. What the product is being tested for.

   e. See **Attachment 1** for an example email notification.

VI. MPID NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE RESULTS BY THE ASC LABORATORY

Food & Drug Protection Microbiologists will send copies of ***negative*** sample results via email to MPIDSampling@ncagr.gov, sabrina.iczkovits@ncagr.gov, sharmila.logendran@ncagr.gov, ashleigh.austin@usda.gov, codi.brandon@usda.gov and elizabeth.benton@usda.gov.

The primary person responsible for reviewing the Request for Sampling Form and for notification of the establishment and MPID field personnel for ***negative*** results is Sabrina Iczkovits. In Sabrina's absence, the order of responsibility would move from Sabrina to Sharmila Logendran to Ashleigh Austin to Codi Brandon to Lisa Benton.

Presumptive positive and ***positive*** sample results will be sent to management (i.e., ashleigh.austin@usda.gov, elizabeth.benton@usda.gov, codi.brandon@usda.gov, jake.groce@usda.gov, matthew.walters@usda.gov, and karen.beck@ncagr.gov).

The primary person responsible for reviewing the Request for Sampling Form and for notification of the establishment and MPID field personnel for ***presumptive positive and positive*** results is Ashleigh Austin. In Ashleigh's absence, the order of responsibility would move from Ashleigh to Codi Brandon to Lisa Benton to Jake Groce or Matthew Walters.

VII. ESTABLISHMENT AND FIELD NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE NEGATIVE MICROBIOLOGICAL RESULTS BY MPID OFFICE PERSONNEL

1. As soon as the MPID office receives results for Raw Beef Trim for STEC testing, Raw Beef Bench Trim for STEC Testing, Raw Ground Beef Sampling for STEC Testing, Raw Ground Poultry Sampling for *Salmonella* and Ready to Eat (RTE) Product Testing for *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* and non-*Listeria monocytogenes Listeria* species, the Request for Sampling Form should be reviewed as discussed below prior to notifying the applicable establishment or MPID field personnel.

2. First, check the Request for Sample Form to ensure that in the "Analysis" section the "Final Report" section yields all negative sample results for one of the tests listed below as seen in the "Project Name" section of the form:

   a. Cloth Sampling of Beef Bench Trimmings for Shiga Toxin-Producing *E. coli* Testing (TRIM_C)
   b. Cloth Sampling of Beef Manufacturing Trimmings for Shiga Toxin-Producing *E. coli* Testing (STEC_C)
   c. Shiga Toxin-Producing *E. coli* Testing (VLV)
   d. Raw Ground Poultry Sapling for Salmonella (RGP S)
   e. Ready-to-Eat Product Testing (03E)
   f. Ready-to-Eat Product Testing (03F)
   g. Ready-to-Eat Product Testing (03G)

   NOTE: If during review of the form, in the "Analysis" section, the "Interim Report" area yields any presumptive positive sample results or the "Final Report" area yields any positive sample results, Sabrina or Sharmila are to contact Ashleigh Austin, Codi Brandon or Lisa Benton.

3. Check the date of the results to ensure it is a current result. The date notated in the "Final Report" section should be the date the Request for Sampling Form was received via email. If you receive a questionable sample transcript, please contact Ashleigh Austin, Codi Brandon or Lisa Benton before calling the establishment.

4. Once a review has been made of the Request for Sampling Form and it is determined to be acceptable, print a hard copy of the form.

5. Notification of establishment personnel should occur via the phone number or the email listed in the "Contact Name and Phone Number/Email" section on the Request for Sampling form as soon as possible after receiving the email with the sample results.

6. When contacting establishment personnel via phone, ask to speak to the Plant Contact Person(s) as listed. Do not relay information to anyone other than the Plant Contact Person(s); this includes not leaving a message with the results.

7. If the Plant Contact Person is reached, use the following verbiage for notification:

   For Cloth Sampling for STEC (STEC_C and TRIM_C) samples:

   "Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your _____ (will be either raw beef bench trimmings or raw beef trimmings - see "Product") submitted to our lab on _____ (state "Collection Date") was negative for *E. coli* STECs."

For Raw Ground Beef Sampling for STEC samples (VLV):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your raw ground beef submitted to our lab on _____(state “Collection Date”) was negative for *E. coli* STECs."

For Raw Ground Poultry Sampling for *Salmonella* samples (RGP S):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your raw ground poultry sample submitted to our lab on _____ (state “Collection Date”) was negative for *Salmonella*."

For Ready to Eat Samples (03E, 03F or 03G):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your _____ (see “Product”) submitted to our lab on _____ (state “Collection Date”) was negative for *Listeria monocytogenes,* non-*Listeria monocytogenes Listeria* species and *Salmonella*."

8. After relaying the results, make a note on the Request for Sampling Form that includes the date and time the results were relayed to establishment personnel, who you spoke with, and your initials.

   Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm gave results to Mr. John Doe, Plant Manager, *SI*"

9. Follow the steps below if the Plant Contact Person could not be reached:

   a. If you call and connect to an employee other than the Plant Contact Person and it is determined they are not available, ask when it is best to call them back and call again at the date/time given. Also, make a notation at the bottom of the Request for Sampling Form that you attempted to call. List the date, time, and reason results could not be relayed and initial it.

      Examples: "5/1/25 2pm, no answer, *SI*"
      "5/1/25 2pm, line busy, *SI*"
      "5/1/25 2pm, Mr. Contact Person not there, told to call back at 4 pm, *SI*"

   b. If no answer, or the individual listed is not available for the second attempt at reaching them, record the attempt as described in item 1 above.

   c. If the Plant Contact Person cannot be reached after a second attempt, call the Area Supervisor and ask them to get in touch with the Inspector and Plant Management to relay the results.

   d. As with all time sensitive information, it is important to relay this information in person and not in the form of a message on their voice mail. If you get the Area Supervisor's voicemail, leave a message that you have time sensitive lab results and ask them to call back as soon as possible.

e. If you reach the Area Supervisor, and relay results to them, make a note of this on the form.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm, gave results to Area Supervisor, *SI*"

f. If you have trouble reaching the Area Supervisor, notify their supervisor (TA Coordinator). Make a note of this on the form as well.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm, gave results to T/A Coordinator, *SI* "

10. After results have been relayed to the establishment or to the Area Supervisor/TA Coordinator (if establishment notification was unsuccessful):

a. Forward the email containing the results from the ASC Laboratory (scanned form) to all the inspectors in the area, the Area Supervisor, and cc MPIDSampling@ncagr.gov.

b. Place the previously printed Request for Sampling Form, complete with all notes regarding contact with establishment management or the Area Supervisor/TA Coordinator for notification in Lisa Benton's box (labeled "lb") in room 457.

c. Ashleigh Austin or Lisa Benton shall review the printed Request for Sampling Forms, initial them, and file them in the "Constable Lab Sampling Results" folder in the breakroom until the bill is finalized at the beginning of the next month. Once the bill is finalized, the forms should then be filed in the respective plant files in the "Laboratory" folder in the TA Office.

VIII. ESTABLISHMENT AND FIELD NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE MICROBIOLOGICAL RESULTS BY MPID OFFICE PERSONNEL

1. As soon as the MPID Office receives presumptive positive results for Raw Beef Trim for STEC testing, Raw Beef Bench Trim for STEC Testing, Raw Ground Beef Sampling for STEC Testing and Ready to Eat (RTE) Product Testing for *Salmonella* and/or *Listeria* species, the Request for Sampling Form should be reviewed as discussed below prior to notifying the applicable establishment or MPID field personnel.

NOTE: Raw Ground Poultry sampling for *Salmonella* **does not** require establishment notification of presumptive positive results.

2. Check the date of the results to ensure it is a current result. The date notated in the "Final Report" section should be the date the Request for Sampling Form was received via email.

3. Once a review has been made of the Request for Sampling Form and it is determined to be acceptable, print a hard copy of the form.

4. Notification of establishment personnel should occur via the phone number, or the email listed in the "Contact Name and Phone Number/Email" section on the Request for Sampling form as soon as possible after receiving the email.

5. When contacting establishment personnel via phone, ask to speak to the Plant Contact Person(s) as listed. Do not relay information to anyone other than the Plant Contact Person; this includes not leaving a message with the results as well.

6. If the Plant Contact Person is reached, use the following verbiage for notification:

For Cloth Sampling for STEC (STEC_C and TRIM_C) samples:

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your _____ (will be either raw beef bench trimmings or raw beef trimmings - see "Product") submitted to our lab on _____ (state "Collection Date") was presumptive positive for *E. coli* STECs." Please continue to hold the product associated with the sample collection.

For Raw Ground Beef Sampling for STEC samples (VLV):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your raw ground beef submitted to our lab on _____ (state "Collection Date") was presumptive positive for *E. coli* STECs." Please continue to hold the product associated with the sample collection.

For Ready to Eat Samples (03E, 03F or 03G):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your _____ (see "Product") submitted to our lab on _____ (state "Collection Date") was presumptive positive for *Listeria* species and/or *Salmonella*." Please continue to hold the product associated with the sample collection.

7. After relaying results, make a note on the Request for Sampling Form that includes the date and time the results were given to establishment personnel, who you spoke with, and your initials.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm gave results to Mr. John Doe, Plant Manager, *AA*"

8. Follow the steps below if the Plant Contact Person could not be reached:

a. If you call and connect to an employee other than the Plant Contact Person and it is determined they are not available, ask when it is best to call them back and call again at the date/time given. Also, make a notation at the bottom of the Request for Sampling Form that you attempted to call. List the date, time, and reason results could not be relayed and initial it.

Examples: "5/1/25 2pm, no answer, *AA*"
"5/1/25 2pm, line busy, *AA*"
"5/1/25 2pm, Mr. Contact Person not there, told to call back at 4pm, *AA*"

b. If no answer, or the individual listed is not available for the second attempt at reaching them, record the attempt as described in section 1 above.

c. If the Plant Contact Person cannot be reached after a second attempt, call the Area Supervisor, and ask them to get in touch with the Inspector and Plant Management to relay the results.

d. As with all time sensitive information, it is important to relay this information in person and not in the form of a message on their voice mail. If you get the Area Supervisor's voicemail, leave a message that you have time sensitive lab results and ask them to call back as soon as possible.

e. If you reach the Area Supervisor, and relay results to them, make a note of this on the form.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm, gave results to Area Supervisor, *AA*"

f. If you have trouble reaching the Area Supervisor, notify their supervisor (TA Coordinator). Make a note of this on the form as well.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm, gave results to TA Coordinator, *AA*"

9. After results have been relayed to the establishment or to the Area Supervisor/TA Coordinator (if establishment notification was unsuccessful), forward the email containing the results from the ASC Laboratory (scanned form) to the Area Supervisor, TA Coordinator and the following MPID Office Personnel: i.e., Ashleigh Austin, Lisa Benton, Codi Brandon, Jake Groce, Matthew Walters and Karen Beck.

10. One copy of the results should be filed in the "Constable Lab Sampling Results" folder in the breakroom until monthly lab bill is reviewed then filed in the respective plant file in the “Laboratory” folder in the TA Office.

IX. ESTABLISHMENT AND FIELD NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE POSITIVE MICROBIOLOGICAL RESULTS BY MPID OFFICE PERSONNEL

1. As soon as the MPID Office receives positive results for Raw Beef Trim for STEC testing, Raw Beef Bench Trim for STEC Testing, Raw Ground Beef Sampling for STEC Testing, Raw Ground Poultry Sampling for *Salmonella* and Ready to Eat (RTE) Product Testing for *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* and/or non-*Listeria monocytogenes Listeria* species, the Request for Sampling Form should be reviewed as discussed below prior to notifying the applicable establishment or MPID field personnel.

2. Check the date of the results to ensure it is a current result. The date notated in the “Final Report” section should be the date the Request for Sampling Form was received via email.

3. Once a review has been made of the Request for Sampling Form and it is determined to be acceptable, print a hard copy of the form.

4. Notification of establishment personnel should occur via the phone number, or the email listed in the “Contact Name and Phone Number/Email” section on the Request for Sampling form as soon as possible after receiving the email.

5. When contacting establishment personnel via phone, ask to speak to the Plant Contact Person(s) as listed. Do not relay information to anyone other than the Plant Contact Person; this includes not leaving a message with the results as well.

6. If the Plant Contact Person is reached, use the following verbiage for notification:

For Cloth Sampling for STEC (STEC_C and TRIM_C) samples:

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your _____ (will be either raw beef bench trimmings or raw beef trimmings - see “Product”) submitted to our lab on _____ (state “Collection Date”) was positive for *E. coli* STECs. Please continue to hold the product until you speak with the inspector and/or Area Supervisor regarding further actions."

For Raw Ground Beef Sampling for STEC samples (VLV):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your raw ground beef submitted to our lab on _____ (state “Collection Date”) was positive for *E. coli* STECs. Please continue to hold the product until you speak with the inspector and/or Area Supervisor regarding further actions."

For Raw Ground Poultry Sampling for Salmonella samples (RGP S):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your raw ground poultry submitted to our lab on _____ (state “Collection Date”) was positive for *Salmonella*. Product was not required to be held for this sample, so at this time there are no further actions. You will be notified by the inspector of your *Salmonella* category status when that information is released by the Raleigh Office and at that point in time further actions may be required."

For Ready to Eat Samples (03E, 03F or 03G):

"Hello, my name is _____. I work in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Office in Raleigh. I am calling to let you know that your _____ (see “Product”) submitted to our lab on _____ (state “Collection Date”) was positive for *Listeria monocytogenes,* non-*Listeria monocytogenes Listeria* species and/or *Salmonella*. Please continue to hold the product until you speak with the inspector and/or Area Supervisor regarding further actions."

7. After relaying results, make a note on the Request for Sampling Form that includes the date and time the results were given to establishment personnel, who you spoke with, and your initials.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm gave results to Mr. John Doe, Plant Manager, *AA*"

8. Follow the steps below if the Plant Contact Person could not be reached:

a. If you call and connect to an employee other than the Plant Contact Person and it is determined they are not available, ask when it is best to call them back and call

again at the date/time given. Also, make a notation at the bottom of the Request for Sampling Form that you attempted to call. List the date, time, and reason results could not be relayed and initial it.

Examples: "5/1/25 2pm, no answer, *AA*"
"5/1/25 2pm, line busy, *AA*"
"5/1/25 2pm, Mr. Contact Person not there, told to call back at 4pm, *AA*"

b. If no answer, or the individual listed is not available for the second attempt at reaching them, record the attempt as described in section a. above.

c. If the Plant Contact Person cannot be reached after a second attempt, call the Area Supervisor, and ask them to get in touch with the Inspector and Plant Management to relay the results.

d. As with all time sensitive information, it is important to relay this information in person and not in the form of a message on their voice mail. If you get the Area Supervisor's voicemail, leave a message that you have time sensitive lab results and ask them to call back as soon as possible.

e. If you reach the Area Supervisor, and relay results to them, make a note of this on the form.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm, gave results to Area Supervisor, *AA*"

f. If you have trouble reaching the Area Supervisor, notify their supervisor (TA Coordinator). Make a note of this on the form as well.

Example: "5/1/25 - 3pm, gave results to TA Coordinator, *AA*"

9. After results have been relayed to the establishment or to the Area Supervisor/TA Coordinator (if establishment notification was unsuccessful), forward the email containing the results from the ASC Laboratory (scanned form) to the Area Supervisor, TA Coordinator and the following MPID Office Personnel: i.e., Ashleigh Austin, Lisa Benton, Codi Brandon, Jake Groce, Matthew Walters and Karen Beck.

10. One copy of the results should be filed in the "Constable Lab Sampling Results" folder in the breakroom until monthly lab bill is reviewed then filed in the respective plant file in the “Laboratory” folder in the TA Office.

Dr. Karen Beck
State Director

DISTRIBUTION:	**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**
All MPID Personnel	Administrative

Attachment 1

The following State-inspected establishments are scheduled for microbiological sampling the week of 7/6/2025:

Boxes should arrive no later than Friday, June 27th, 2025. If you have not received the box by then or are missing supplies, notify the MPIDSampling@ncagr.gov immediately.

Inspectors should notify their supervisor and email MPIDSampling@ncagr.gov when a sample cannot be collected. They should hold onto the lab supplies and collaborate with Technical Assistance Unit through the email for the next available collection date.

Area I
ABC Packing Co., P-1234, RTE Product Fully Cooked Not Shelf Stable **(03G)** for *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *non-LM Listeria species*

Area II
Benton's Abattoir, P-4567, Raw Ground Beef **(VLV)** for *E. Coli* O157:H7 and non O157:H7 STEC's

Area III
Austin's Poultry & Beef Co., P-0987, Raw Ground Poultry **(RGP S)** for *Salmonella*

Area IV
No establishments this week

Area V
Iczkovits's Fresh Meats, P-7654, Raw Ground Beef **(VLV)** for *E. Coli* O157:H7 and non O157:H7 STEC's
CBA Distributors, P-4321, Raw Ground Beef **(VLV)** for *E. Coli* O157:H7 and non O157:H7 STEC's

Area VI
No establishments this week

Area VII
Logendran's Packing Company, P-5678, Raw Ground Beef **(VLV)** for *E. Coli* O157:H7 and non O157:H7 STEC's

Area VIII
No establishments this week

Area IX
No establishments this week