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24/02/21

Dear participant,

UK NEQAS BTLP services during the Covid-19 emergency

UK NEQAS BTLP is aware that the worsening COVID-19 pandemic is placing huge pressures on health services in the UK and throughout the world, including our participating laboratories.

In line with other UK NEQAS centres, we have developed a business continuity plan with the objective of maintaining services, supporting participants and minimising the risk to our staff during this challenging period.

Our intention is to continue with a full range of services during this time, although this is subject to review and change as the situation evolves. In the event of failure in our supply chain, we will reduce or delay the supply of services until later in the year; however, we aim to fulfil the full range of service during the coming participation year.

We will review each exercise five weeks prior to the published dispatch date (which can be found on the [schedule page](#) of our website) and indicate in the table on page 2 of this document which if any exercises are being modified and how.

We would encourage laboratories to complete their EQA testing, wherever possible, as it helps provide a degree of assurance that any contingency processes you operate are still working to a satisfactory standard.

We request that you continue to test the material for all BTLP exercises by the closing date in the exercise instructions, unless notified otherwise, to enable us to guarantee the stability of the material.

We have made arrangements to avoid penalising participants for non-return of results due to circumstances beyond their control. If you cannot return results, please let us know by email btlp@ukneqas.org and include your PRN and the exercise code.

The delay to the receipt of a proportion of results and possible staff shortages in our team may mean that data processing and reporting is delayed beyond the published report dates. For UK participants, we will follow up on performance concerns as soon as they become apparent.

With best wishes,

Richard Haggas

Exercise code	Dispatch date	Change being made
2002F	17/03/20	One sample instead of two, we hope to send an additional sample later in the year
20E3	23/03/20	The closing date is being extended until 06/04/20 23:59 to allow more time for testing and result submission. Stability testing has shown that samples are stable until this time.
1920ANT4		
2003F Cancelled	12/05/20	Due to lack of material it is not possible to create samples. We hope to send out additional samples later in the year.
20E4	20/04/20	The closing date is being extended until 04/05/20 23:59 to allow more time for testing and result submission. Stability testing has shown that samples are stable until this time.
20E6	15/06/20	The closing date is being extended until 29/06/20 23:59 to allow more time for testing and result submission. Stability testing has shown that samples are stable until this time.
2004F Cancelled	07/07/20	Due to lack of material it is not possible to create samples. We hope to send out additional samples later in the year.
20E7	20/07/20	The closing date is being extended until 29/06/20 23:59 to allow more time for testing and result submission. Stability testing has shown that samples are stable until this time.
20ANT3		
2102F	16/03/21	This will hopefully be the last exercise to contain three samples and will catch up with all missing samples in the 2020-21 period