



Legionella Testing Timescales & Reports

How long does a Legionella test take and what reports from the lab will I get?

Legionella tested to ISO11731:2017 has a full incubation time of 10 days. However, this is the time taken to incubate the plates before final reading of the plates; so additional time may be needed as explained below.

Confirmation if needed takes 2 days, however, on some occasions an extra 3 days may be

required when confirming very slow growing Legionella species or confirming from very high levels of competing bacteria.

The time taken and what reports can be generated for the client are detailed below.

It is important to understand these times are incubation time once testing starts, testing may not start on day of receipt.

Day of incubation	Step	Report	Interim Report	Report Mandatory
0	Sample set up	N/A	N/A	
5	First read of plates. If presumptive colonies are seen, confirmation started	If presumptive colonies are seen, confirmation started	YES	
7	Confirmation of any day 5 presumptives complete	Confirmed count	YES	YES
10	Final Read of Plates If <u>new</u> presumptive colonies are seen, confirmation started	If presumptive colonies are seen, confirmation started	YES	
10	Final Read of Plates Where no <u>new</u> presumptives are seen	Final certificate	No	YES
12	Confirmation of any day 10 presumptives complete	Final certificate	No	YES

Note: Receiving reports of presumptives is a client decision and is not mandatory.

Therefore, final reporting is generated at either day 10 of incubation or day 12.

The day is based on:

- Day 10; no presumptives to confirm at day 10. These samples are either completely negative results or positive results based on day 5 reading where nothing new was seen on day 10
- Day 12; presumptives to confirm seen at day 10