

Cryptosporidium and Giardia

Aim of the Program

This proficiency testing program aims to assess laboratories' capability in the identification and enumeration of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* from water samples; and to provide participants with external quality assurance to enhance accuracy and reliability.

Application of the Program to Accreditation

Participation in this proficiency testing program satisfies the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories* for monitoring performance by comparing results with other laboratories.

Program Details

The *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* program is a biannual program consisting of two rounds per year.

Samples – A set of five concentrate waters samples, designed to simulate environmental water, spiked with a mixture of various combinations of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.

Tests – total counts (used for statistical analysis) and confirmed counts.

Statistical Analysis:

A robust z-score technique is used to assess performance.

Reporting:

At the conclusion of each round, each participant receives a confidential individual summary sheet, detailing its performance in the program, and a final program report summarising all participant data.

Confidentiality

Each participant is assigned a unique code number, keeping all results anonymous in all PTA reports and publications.

Fees and Further Information

For information on program fees or other enquiries, please contact PTA directly:

Email: ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au