

Newbridge Scientific

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Effective Date: 01/08/2023

**Title:** Procedure for Sample Collection: Dipslides for environmental testing

**Objective:** To provide an indication of bacterial contamination within the poultry shed post turnaround.

**Materials required:** Grip-seal sample bags, disposable gloves and dipslides (5 per house)

**Method:**

1. Wash hands and wear disposable gloves. It is important that your skin does not come into contact with the agar at any point during sampling.
2. Remove the dipslide from the tube, taking care to not touch the agar on the edge of the tube.
3. Place dipslide agar onto the surface being sampled. Using the plastic tab at the bottom and the flexible top handle, ensure all of the agar makes contact with the surface being sampled. Keep in place for approximately 20 seconds. When finished, turn the dipslide over and repeat with the agar on the opposite side.
4. Replace the dipslide into the sterile plastic tube, taking care not to damage the agar in the process.
5. Label the dipslide with the area sampled and the house number.
6. Complete the submission form, ensuring to include the business name, farm name, house number, sampling date and the areas sampled.

It is recommended not to sample a visibly soiled area that has just been walked over/touched.

**For all samples:**

Plan for samples to arrive on a weekday.

Use appropriate sample numbers and containers – consult the Laboratory or supervising vet if in any doubt.

Package in a secure leakproof manner and submit on the day of sampling. If not possible, please keep samples refrigerated (not frozen)

Complete the submission form and place separately to the samples.