



APHA Briefing Note 25/17

Interpretation of TB Tracing Tests in Wales from 1 December 2017

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of changes in Wales to the interpretation of TB tracing tests carried out in Wales from 1 December 2017

Background

2. Currently the disclosing test and the first Short Interval Test (SIT) of a herd with an Officially TB Free Withdrawn (OTFW) TB breakdown status are read at severe interpretation. Cattle traced from these breakdowns either within Wales or traced to a holding in Wales from a TB breakdown in England or Scotland are usually tested at standard interpretation.
3. To correct this inconsistency and reduce the risk of missing infected animals, severe interpretation will be applied to cattle identified from 1 December 2017 as spread tracings from TB breakdown holdings within Wales and to cattle traced into Wales from TB breakdowns in England and Scotland

Standalone tracing tests (TR) in Wales from 1 December 2017

4. Where a tracing test (TR) is instructed for cattle identified as spread tracings from 1 December 2017, it will be instructed at severe interpretation. If a reactor is disclosed at severe interpretation, normal TB breakdown procedures will apply.

Testing of spread-traced cattle within a herd test from 1 December 2017

5. Where a herd test is already scheduled, cattle identified as tracings may be included in this test, with no specific instruction given for a TR test. Farmers

are advised by letter of the identities of traced animals whose testing will be synchronised with the impending test of the herd.

6. OV's should be aware that in these cases of synchronised tests, where the traced animals are included in a herd test, APHA will retrospectively apply severe interpretation to any individual traced animals disclosed as standard Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) when the test chart is reviewed.
7. A proportion of animals that are IRs at standard interpretation will become reactors when severe interpretation is applied. If a traced animal requested by APHA to be included in a herd test (with no TR test instructed for it), is disclosed as an IR, OV's should advise their clients as to whether the animal will become a reactor at severe interpretation.

IRs pending retest identified as traced animals from 1 December 2017

8. If an IR that is awaiting retest is identified as a spread traced animal in Wales from 1 December 2017, the disclosing test of that individual animal will be re-interpreted at severe interpretation
9. No action will be taken where an IR identified as a traced animal has already retested clear at standard interpretation, unless a re-interpretation is required due to the herd's OTF status being withdrawn

Actions following tests of traced animals in Wales from 1 December 2017

10. Any standard or severe reactors disclosed by testing of traced animals will result in an OTFW status being applied to the TB breakdown and normal breakdown procedures will apply
11. If traced animals are disclosed as IRs, a retest of these animals will be instructed from 60 days later at severe interpretation
12. Animals that are inconclusive two times, both at standard interpretation, will be removed as reactors and normal breakdown procedures will apply
13. An interferon gamma (IFNg) blood test will be done on any traced animals that are IRs at two consecutive tests but where they are inconclusive at severe interpretation only on one or both tests at severe interpretation only on one or both tests
14. Any animals which have positive results to the IFNg blood test will be removed as reactors and normal breakdown procedures will apply

15. Any animals that are negative to the IFNg blood test will remain as IRs with a continued requirement for isolation and a final IR retest at severe interpretation will be scheduled
16. Any animals that remain inconclusive at this final retest will be removed as reactors and will result in an OTFW status being applied to the TB breakdown. Normal breakdown procedures will apply.

Further Information

17. Further information on the Welsh Government Bovine TB eradication plan and other TB matters is available here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=en>

<http://www.tbhub.co.uk/>

Issued: 29 November 2017