



**BULLETIN** No.7

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## Timely Testing for BVD

Timely testing for BVD is essential, as the prompt identification and removal of Persistently Infected cattle is key to disease control.

### When to take samples

- While the calving season is a particularly busy time on many farms, herd owners are encouraged to tag calves promptly after birth (practically this means **as soon as the calf is dry**). Calves that are tested when they are older may have come into contact with a BVD virus Positive animal and thus may have a transient infection (TI) which will show up as a Positive result and mean that a retest is required.
- When retesting of initial BVD Positives or Inconclusives is required, arrange for your vet to carry out blood sampling three weeks after the date that the ear tag was applied and the sample taken.
- If a retest is required following an empty sample result, apply a supplementary tag to obtain an ear tissue sample or arrange for a blood sample to be taken by your vet as soon as possible.
- For details of sampling of imported cattle, see Bulletin No. 6 (BVD testing of imported GB cattle: [20210223 Bulletin 6 GB imports testing advice final.pdf \(animalhealthni.com\)](https://www.animalhealthni.com/20210223/Bulletin%206%20GB%20imports%20testing%20advice%20final.pdf)).

### Sample storage and dispatch

If ear tissue samples are being stored in a fridge before being dispatched to a laboratory, **they should be stored for no longer than seven days**.

It is important that correct postage is applied to the sample envelopes. Royal Mail advises that the **large letter fee should be sufficient for up to 10 samples** provided they are packed flat, rather than bulked up within the envelope. Underpayment and failure to package samples appropriately may lead to sample processing being delayed or samples being disposed of untested.

Please note that postage can be purchased online: parcel details may be entered at <https://parcel.royalmail.com/>, payment made and labels printed, so that large letters may be posted directly without the need to go to a Post Office.

### Checking for results

Monitor results returning from the laboratories to ensure that an official result is available for each animal in your herd that has been sampled. If it is more than 10 days since samples were submitted, please contact the AHWNI helpdesk (see contact details below).



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