

ANALYTICAL SERVICES Virus Detection



Foodborne infections are a major health issue from both a technical and regulatory perspective. Norovirus GI/GII and Hepatitis A are the principal cause of gastroenteritis in developed countries, and are commonly linked to the consumption of contaminated food and beverages. For years, difficulties in propagating viruses in cell cultures greatly hindered their detection in food. Advanced molecular approaches have considerably improved detection, with Real Time (RT) – PCR becoming a standard method worldwide.

Services offered by Mérieux NutriSciences

Employing RT-PCR (ISO/TS 15216), Mérieux NutriSciences offers fast and reliable testing for Norovirus GI/GII and Hepatitis A testing in the following matrices:

- Drinking water
- Food Contact Surfaces
- Fruits
- Herbs and spices
- RTE products
- Shellfish
- Vegetables

Within the Mérieux NutriSciences group we provide a wide range of services related to virus detection, ranging from routine surveillance to food handlers to meet hygiene requirements.

For further information contact Megan Smith on +27 21 683 8436 or email Megan at megan.smith@mxns.com with your specific queries and we will facilitate the shipment of your samples to our Global Network.

www.merieuxnutrisciences.com
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Significant information:

- ▶ During 2012, 50% of foodborne illnesses in the USA were due to viruses.
- ▶ During 2012, 30% of foodborne illnesses in Europe were due to viruses.
- ▶ In 2013, 48 virus alerts were reported in Europe. Among them, 38% were found in fruits, and 62% in mollusks.

Known Causes of Foodborne Illness in the USA (2006-2010):

- ▶ Norovirus - 49%
- ▶ Bacteria - 40%
- ▶ Chemicals - 6%
- ▶ Other/Multiple - 4%
- ▶ Parasites - 1%
- ▶ Product contact surfaces

Causes of virus alerts in Europe (2013) :

- ▶ Norovirus GI/GII - 6%
- ▶ Hepatitis A virus - 31%