



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0131 244 8890 F: 0131 244 8940
E: info@sasa.gov.scot

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY SASA DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

During the restrictions due to control of Covid-19, many SASA staff will be working from home. The laboratory will therefore only be attended on an 'on call' basis to process urgent samples. Please do not send bee health samples directly to the lab unless instructed to by one of our team as they will not be sorted or processed.

The Bee Health Improvement Team has put in place the following system to continue to support Scottish Beekeepers during this crisis. We thank you for your assistance and patience to help us manage our work safely whilst supporting the health of your bees.

VARROA AND NON-NOTIFIABLE 'NATIVE' PESTS AND DISEASES

During the current COVID-19 restrictions SASA will NOT be accepting any adult bee samples or samples for Varroa screening.

Routine diagnosis will not resume until SASA staff are able to return to work for 'normal duties'.

An online support system will be available for beekeepers wishing to report concerns of colony loss where they would normally send a sample of adult bees or debris to SASA for analysis – in the first instance they should email Graeme.Sharpe@sruc.ac.uk including as much details as possible as:

- contact details: name, phone, BeeBase ID, Email address, postal address.
- Details of operation: number of hives / apiaries
- Full description of symptoms
- Digital photos (phone / camera) if possible.
- Colony strength
- Management prior to the colony loss (or reported symptoms).

FOULBROOD AND EXOTIC PESTS: (CONTINUE AS NORMAL)

If you have a reason to suspect the presence of a notifiable disease or pest in your honey bee colonies please contact the Bee Inspectorate at:

Bees_Mailbox@gov.scot

The Bee Inspectors will discuss with you the symptoms and if Notifiable Disease is suspected we will either visit you or provide you with instructions for sampling.