



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

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July 2, 2012

Dear DSHS Women's Health Laboratory Submitter:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) regrets to inform you that the DSHS Women's Health Laboratory (WHL) located at 2303 S.E. Military Drive in San Antonio, Texas will be closing August 31, 2012. The reason for this closure is to realign services, to consolidate resources and to make the best use of limited funds, while ensuring that DSHS continues to provide essential core public health laboratory services.

Effective August 9, 2012, WHL will no longer accept specimens for testing. This will allow sufficient time for completion of testing prior to the cessation of operations on August 31, 2012. DSHS has two other laboratories that provide testing services, the main State Laboratory located in Austin, Texas and the South Texas Laboratory located in Harlingen, Texas. If you wish to submit specimens to these laboratories you will need to obtain a new submitter number for each of these laboratories, if you do not already have one, as your WHL submitter number will no longer be valid. You may contact Sandra Navarro via phone at 512-776-2377 or via email at Sandra.Navarro@dshs.state.tx.us to obtain new submitter numbers for these laboratories.

The DSHS Laboratory Services Section is in the process of implementing a new fee schedule which will be effective September 1, 2012. For a list of tests and the proposed fees for the Austin and South Texas Laboratories, please see the information on the proposed rules concerning laboratory fees posted on the DSHS Laboratory Services Section website in the section Laboratory Correspondence and Bulletins section at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/labcorrespondencebulletins.shtm>. If your facility is submitting specimens in conjunction with a DSHS program, please continue to use the same payor source when submitting specimens to the Austin or South Texas Laboratories. Not all services available at WHL (including but not limited to pap smears and histology testing) may be available at the Austin or South Texas Laboratories; please check the website listed above for a complete listing of services provided at these laboratories.

The DSHS Laboratory Services Section would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation during this transition. We strive to provide our submitters with quality service while optimizing processes to keep costs down. If you have any other questions and/or comments, please contact Susan Hoffpauir via phone at 512-776-6030 or 1-888-963-7111 ext. 6030 or via email at Susan.Hoffpauir@dshs.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace Kubin".

Grace Kubin, Ph.D.
Director, Laboratory Services Section