

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES - LABORATORY

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLOSURE REMINDERS

The Texas DSHS Laboratory **will be closed:**

12/24/2015 - Thursday

12/25/2015 – Friday

12/26/2015 - Saturday

NEWBORN SCREENING

Testing Notices:

- All newborn screening specimens received on Thursday, 12/24/2015 (Christmas Eve) will be tested immediately by the NBS laboratory.
- Healthcare providers may be notified of critical level presumptive positive results on Friday, 12/25/2015 (Christmas Day).
- Testing for newborn screening will resume on Monday, 12/28/2015.

Healthcare Provider Reminders:

- DO NOT delay collection or shipment of newborn screening specimens.
- Ship dried specimens within 24 hours. If mail or courier services are unavailable, ship as quickly as possible.

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Testing Notices:

- The Clinical Chemistry Laboratory must receive specimen submissions for total hemoglobin, lead, glucose, and lipid/cholesterol testing by Tuesday, 12/22/2015 to complete testing prior to the holiday.

Healthcare Provider Reminders:

- Specimens submitted for lead and total hemoglobin testing must be received within 14 days of collection.
- Specimens submitted for glucose and lipid/cholesterol testing must be received according to specimen submission guidelines available at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/mrs_labtests_toc.shtm

MICROBIOLOGY

Testing Notices:

- Specimens for **Rabies** testing should be shipped via Greyhound Bus. Specimens received between 8 am and 3 pm on Wednesday, 12/23/2015 will be tested 12/24/2015 and positive results will be called out 12/24/2015. Emergency testing will be available on 12/24/2015 and, 12/26/2015 by arrangement with laboratory personnel if specimen receipt can be guaranteed. Negative specimen results will be available 12/28/2015. Submitters may request a negative report on the holiday by contacting the Rabies Laboratory at (512) 776-7595. All other specimens will be tested on 12/28/2015 and reported 12/28/2015.

Healthcare Provider Reminders:

- **Viral Isolation Laboratory:** Please do not ship specimens 12/23/2015 through 12/25/2015. If specimens are collected during this time period, please store at -70°C or below and ship specimens the following week, beginning 12/28/2015 on dry ice.
- **Mycobacteriology/Mycology Laboratory (TB):** To receive expedited AFB Smear and/or NAA for M. tuberculosis test results before the holiday, please ensure that specimens are delivered to the laboratory by 10 AM on Wednesday, 12/23/2015. Please telephone expedited test requests to 512-776-7342.

Questions? Contact the Texas DSHS Laboratory:

Call toll free: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7318 or for local calls 512-776-7318

Email: LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us

Or: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us