



**BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS BRANCH
LABORATORY SERVICES, MC-1947
PO BOX 149347
AUSTIN, TX 78714-3194**

**2012 Holiday Instructions for
Mailing Clinical Chemistry Specimens to the DSHS Laboratory**
(November 2012)

The DSHS Laboratory will be closed in observance of holidays on:

- November 22-23, 2012 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 24-26, 2012 – Christmas Holiday
- January 1, 2013 – New Year Holiday

For timely processing prior to the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays, the Laboratory must **receive** specimen submissions for total hemoglobin and lead testing **by November 20, 2012, December 20, 2012, and December 28, 2012**, respectively. This will facilitate faster turn-around time during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays and reduce specimen rejections. Please keep in mind the possibility of delays in mail service during the holidays.

- Specimens submitted for **lead and total hemoglobin testing** must be **received within 10 days** of collection.
- Specimens submitted for **hemoglobin types/hemoglobin electrophoresis testing** must be **received within 13 days** of collection.

We appreciate your commitment in providing services for children in the State of Texas.