



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES - LABORATORY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICE

The Texas DSHS Laboratory in Austin **will be**

# CLOSED

11/24/2016 - Thursday

11/25/2016 – Friday

### NEWBORN SCREENING (NBS)

#### *Testing Notices:*

- All **NBS** specimens received on **Wednesday, 11/23/2016** will be tested immediately by the NBS laboratory.
- Healthcare providers may be notified of critical level presumptive positive results on **Thursday, 11/24/2016** (Thanksgiving Day).
- **NBS** testing will resume on **Saturday, 11/26/2016**.
- Healthcare providers may be notified of critical level presumptive positive results on **Sunday, 11/27/2016**.

#### *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, 11/22/2016** 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](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 a.m. and noon on **Wednesday, 11/23/2016** will be tested **Friday, 11/25/2016** and positive results will be called out before noon. **Emergency** testing will be available on **Friday, 11/25/2016** and **Saturday, 11/26/2016** by arrangement with laboratory personnel if specimen receipt can be guaranteed. Negative specimen results will be available **Monday, 11/28/2016**. 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 **Monday, 11/28/2016** and reported before 5 p.m.

### *Healthcare Provider Reminders:*

- **Viral Isolation Laboratory:** Please do not ship specimens **Wednesday, 11/23/2016 – Sunday, 11/27/2016**. If specimens are collected during this time period, please store at -70°C or below and ship specimens the following week, beginning **Monday, 11/28/2016** 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 8:30 a.m. on **Wednesday, 11/23/2016**. 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](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.state.tx.us)

Or: [NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us)

Or: [ClinicalChemistry@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:ClinicalChemistry@dshs.state.tx.us)