

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES - LABORATORY

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSURE REMINDERS

The Texas DSHS Laboratory **will be closed:**  
 12/24/2016 – Saturday  
 12/25/2016 – Sunday  
 12/26/2016 – Monday  
**UPDATE 1/2/2017 - Monday**

### NEWBORN SCREENING

<i>Testing Notices:</i>
<p>Christmas Holiday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newborn screening specimens received and accessioned on Saturday, 12/24/2016 (Christmas Eve) will be tested immediately by the NBS Laboratory.</li> <li>- Healthcare providers may be notified of critical level preliminary presumptive positive results on Sunday, 12/25/2016 (Christmas Day).</li> <li>- Testing for newborn screening will resume on Tuesday, 12/27/2016.</li> </ul> <p>New Year's Holiday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newborn screening specimens received and accessioned on Saturday, 12/31/2016 (New Year's Eve) will be tested immediately by the NBS Laboratory.</li> <li>- Healthcare providers may be notified of critical level preliminary presumptive positive results on Tuesday, 1/3/2017.</li> <li>- Testing for newborn screening will resume on Tuesday, 1/3/2017.</li> </ul>
<i>Healthcare Provider Reminders:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DO NOT delay collection or shipment of newborn screening specimens.</li> <li>- Ship dried specimens within 24 hours. If mail or courier services are unavailable, ship as quickly as possible.</li> </ul>

### CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

<i>Testing Notices:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The Clinical Chemistry Laboratory will be closed on Monday, 12/26/2016, and Monday, 1/2/2017.</b></li> <li>- Specimen submissions for total hemoglobin, lead, glucose, and lipid/cholesterol testing must be received by Thursday, 12/22/2016 to complete testing prior to the Christmas holiday and by Thursday, 12/29/2016 to complete testing prior to the New Year's holiday.</li> <li>- DO NOT ship cholesterol, lipid profile or glucose specimens on Fridays or prior to an observed holiday.</li> </ul>
<i>Healthcare Provider Reminders:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specimens submitted for lead and total hemoglobin testing must be received within 14 days of collection.</li> <li>- Specimens submitted for glucose and lipid/cholesterol testing must be received according to specimen submission guidelines available at:  <a href="http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/mrs_labtests_toc.shtm">http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/mrs_labtests_toc.shtm</a></li> </ul>

## Microbiology

### Testing Notices:

#### Christmas Holiday

- Specimens for **Rabies** testing should be shipped via Greyhound Bus. Specimens received between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, 12/23/2016 will be tested Saturday, 12/24/2016 and positive results will be called out Saturday, 12/24/2016. Emergency testing will be available on Saturday, 12/24/2016 and Monday, 12/26/2016, by arrangement with laboratory personnel if specimen receipt can be guaranteed. Negative specimen results will be available Tuesday, 12/27/2016. 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 Tuesday, 12/27/2016 and reported Tuesday, 12/27/2016.

#### New Year's Holiday

- Specimens received before 3 p.m. on Friday, 12/30/2016 will be tested on Saturday before noon. Specimens with positive results will be called out to submitters by noon Saturday, 12/31/2016. Negative results will be available on Tuesday, 1/3/2017. Emergency testing will be available on Saturday, 12/31/2016 and Monday, 1/2/2017 by arrangement with laboratory personnel if specimen receipt can be guaranteed. Specimens received after 3 p.m. on Friday, 12/30/2016 and before 8 a.m. on Monday, 1/2/2017 will be tested on 1/2/2017 and positive results will be called out before 5 p.m.

### Healthcare Provider Reminders:

- **Viral Isolation Laboratory:** Please do not ship specimens 12/23/2016 through 12/26/2016. If specimens are collected during this time period, please store at -70°C or below and ship specimens for receipt beginning 12/27/2016 on dry ice. **Please do not ship specimens for receipt on Monday, January 2. Please store at -70°C or below and ship for delivery on Tuesday, January 3.**
- **Mycobacteriology/Mycology Laboratory (TB):** To receive expedited AFB Smear and/or NAA for M. tuberculosis test results before the Christmas holiday, please ensure that specimens are delivered to the laboratory by 8:30 a.m. on Friday, 12/23/2016. Please telephone expedited test requests to 512-776-7342. Please do not ship specimens on Friday, 12/23/2016 through Monday, 12/26/2016. If specimens are collected during this time period, please store in refrigerator and ship on Tuesday, 12/27/2016. **Please do not ship specimens to be delivered on Monday, 1/2/2017. Store collected specimens in refrigerator and ship for delivery on Tuesday, 1/3/2017.**

#### 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.texas.gov](mailto:LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov)

Or: [NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.texas.gov)

Or: [ClinicalChemistry@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:ClinicalChemistry@dshs.texas.gov)