



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, Sharon P. Massingale, Ph.D., HCLD/CC (ABB) Director

November 17, 2023

Volume XXIII Issue 6

ATTENTION HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Holiday Sample Collection Schedule



The Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Clinical Laboratories will be closed November 23-24, 2023, December 25, 2023, and January 1, 2024. Please remember the following concerning the collection and shipping of specimens to the State Laboratory.

- All blood specimens drawn for STD testing on November 22nd, December 22nd, and December 29th must be **picked up** by the courier (or shipped) that day to ensure timely refrigeration to avoid unsatisfactory results due to the age of the specimen.
- Urine cultures must be **received** by our Mobile Laboratory via the morning courier deliveries by Wednesday, November 22nd, Friday, December 22nd, or Friday, December 29th. This means that no urine cultures should be collected on Wednesday, November 22nd, Friday, December 22nd or Friday, December 29th. Any urine specimen collected prior to that must be **picked up** by the courier (or shipped) by the previous day. Testing for urine cultures must begin within 48 hours of collection.
- All hematology and lymphocyte subset specimens **must** be received by the laboratory before noon of the day prior to the holiday to ensure they are not reported unsatisfactory due to the age of the specimen.
- For all other specimens, please follow your normal protocols for draw/received times, taking into account that the State Laboratory will be closed on the dates listed above.

*Please contact the Quality Management Division at
334-290-3115 if you have questions regarding this bulletin.*

*Bureau of Clinical Laboratories
Quality Management Division
204 Legends Court
Prattville, Alabama 36066*