TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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

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ATTENTION ALL PROVIDERS



The Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, will be closed on November 26-27, 2026; December 25, 2026; and January 1, 2027. Please remember the following regarding the collection and shipping of specimens to the state public health laboratories in Prattville and Mobile.

- All **serum/plasma specimens drawn for STD testing on November 24, December 23, and December 30 must be picked up** by the courier (or shipped) that day to ensure timely refrigeration to avoid unsatisfactory results because of the age of the specimen. Due to the 5-day holding time, **do not draw serum STD specimens on November 25 or December 24**.
- **Urine culture specimens** must be **received** by our Mobile Laboratory on the morning of Wednesday, November 25; Thursday, December 24; or Thursday, December 31. These specimens must be collected and **picked up** by the courier (or shipped) on the day prior to the receipt cut-offs listed above. Testing for urine cultures must begin within 48 hours of collection.
- The laboratory must receive all **hematology** and **lymphocyte** subset specimens before noon on the day before the holiday to ensure they are not reported unsatisfactory due to the age of the specimen.
- **Drinking water samples** should **not** be collected or submitted Wednesday through Friday during the weeks of November 23rd and December 21st.
- No **dairy samples** should be submitted during the week of November 23rd or the week of December 21st.

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BUREAU OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES

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