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 now be closed December **24**-26, 2025, and January 1, 2026. Please remember the following concerning 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 December 22, 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 December 23**.
- **Urine culture specimens** must be **received** by our Mobile Laboratory the **morning** of Tuesday, December 23, or Wednesday, December 31. Any urine culture specimens must be collected and **picked up** by the courier (or shipped) on the day prior to the receipt date 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 of 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 Tuesday-Friday of the week of December 22nd.
- No **dairy samples** should be submitted the week of December 22nd.
- For all other specimens, please follow your regular protocols for draw/receive times, taking into account that the State Laboratories will be closed on the dates listed above.

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories
204 Legends Court
Prattville, Alabama 36066
(334) 290-6130

Mobile Division Laboratory
757 Museum Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36608
(251) 344-6049