



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 November 28-29, 2024, December 25, 2024, and January 1, 2025. Please remember the following concerning the collection and shipping of specimens to the State Laboratories.

- All serum/plasma specimens drawn for STD testing on November 26th, December 24th, and December 30th 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. Because of the 5 day holding time, no serum STD specimens should be drawn on November 27th.
- Urine cultures must be **received** by our Mobile Laboratory the morning of Wednesday, November 27th, Tuesday, December 24th, or Tuesday, December 31st. This means that no urine cultures should be collected *on* Wednesday, November 27th. 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 need to be received by the laboratory before noon of the day before 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/receive times, taking into account that the State Laboratories will be closed on the dates listed above.

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