



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 27-28, 2025, December 25-26, 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 November 25, 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 26 or December 24.**
- ♦ **Urine culture specimens** must be **received** by our Mobile Laboratory the morning of Wednesday, November 26, Wednesday, December 24, 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 Wednesday-Friday of the week of November 24th and the week of December 22nd.
- ♦ No **dairy samples** should be submitted the week of November 24th and 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