

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Division of Public Health

DEE PETTIT, PhD, HCLD (ABB) • Acting Laboratory Director, State
Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: Customers of the NC State Laboratory of Public Health

From: Dee Pettit, PhD, HCLS (ABB), Acting Director, State Laboratory of Public Health 

CC:

Date: September 5, 2019

Re: State courier service suspension and sample/specimen storage guidelines

Please be advised that the following counties will have suspended State Courier services this Thursday, Sept. 5th and Friday Sept 6th. Please ensure that specimens and samples are stored using the proper conditions until State Courier services return to their normal schedule.

The following counties will not be picked-up on Thursday or Friday (5:30am to 4:00pm routes):

Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Halifax, Chowan Bertie, Washington, Tyrell, Dare, Hyde, Beaufort, Pamlico, Craven, and Martin.

The following counties will not be picked up Thursday evening (6:00pm to 4:30am routes):

Warren Vance, Granville, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt, Wilson, Johnson, Wayne, Greene, Lenoir, Carteret, Jones, Duplin, Onslow, Sampson, Pender, Brunswick, New Hanover, Columbus, Bladen, Roberson, Scotland, Hoke, Harnett, Cumberland, and Lee.

The following storage guidelines can be used for bacteriological well water samples and Reference Microbiology and Virology/Serology specimens that have been collected and transportation is not currently available due to the State Courier Service suspension:

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 4312 District Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 1918 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1918

www.ncdhhs.gov • <http://publichealth.nc.gov> • slph.ncpublichealth.com • TEL: 919-733-7834 • FAX: 919-733-8695

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Bacteriological Well Water Samples

Bacteriological well water samples should be kept at room temperature and delivered within 30hrs. If samples cannot be delivered within 30 hrs, please discard the sample.

Reference Microbiology Specimens

- *Neisseria gonorrhoea* (GC) cultures must remain incubated in CO₂ until pickup, and require subculture every 48 hrs.
- *Strep pneumoniae* should remain incubated in CO₂; all other Streps are ok at room temperature.
- *Bordetella* cultures must remain refrigerated in transport medium (Reagan-Lowe) and *Bordetella* PCR swabs must remain refrigerated until pickup.
- Stool preserved in Cary Blair/ enteric transport media can be kept refrigerated until pickup. If refrigeration is not available, room temperature storage is acceptable.
- Sputa for TB identification must be refrigerated until pickup.
- *Legionella* culture samples must remain refrigerated until pickup.
- All other clinical submissions for microbiological testing can be stored at room temperature until pickup.

Virology/Serology Specimens

- Serum specimens that have been separated and aliquoted (HIV, HAV, HBV, HCV, Rubella, syphilis, Arbovirus, *Rickettsia*): store refrigerated 4-7°C
- CTGC swabs and urine specimens: store at room temperature
- Rabies: store refrigerated 4-7°C, freeze <-20°C if shipping will be delayed >3 days from collection
- Viral Culture (swabs, urine, aspirates): store refrigerated 4-7°C

Note: swabs collected for HSV/VZV molecular testing will not be tested if received >7 days from collection. However, these specimens will be tested by culture methods.

If you have questions regarding specimen/sample storage, please contact the NCSLPH Customer Service Line at 919-733-3937 or the NCSLPH Emergency Duty Phone at 919-807-8600.