

Holiday Guidance July 2024 – December 2024

Thursday, July 4 (Independence Day)

The Public Health Laboratory will be closed for holiday on Thursday, July 4.

There is no foreseen impact to COVID or TB/AFB testing. Continue sending all specimens as usual.

Monday, September 2 (Labor Day)

The Public Health Laboratory will be closed for holiday on Monday, September 2.

Wednesday, August 28 is the final day to send clinical specimens for **AFB Smear and Culture and MTBC PCR** to the PHL for processing before the holiday. Any TB/AFB specimens collected after courier pickup on Wednesday, August 28 through Saturday, August 31 should be refrigerated until they can be sent to the OSDH PHL. Normal operations will resume Tuesday, September 3.

Wednesday, August 28 is the final day to send **COVID-19 PCR** diagnostic specimens before the holiday. COVID-19 diagnostic specimens collected Thursday, August 29 through Friday, August 30 should be tested with a rapid, non-PCR test only.

COVID PCR testing will resume in the PHL on Tuesday, September 3.

Non-COVID specimens (e.g., Newborn screening, STI) collected during the week will be processed normally starting on Tuesday, September 3. COVID sequencing (not diagnostic) specimens should be forwarded to the PHL as usual.

Monday, November 11 (Veterans Day)

The Public Health Laboratory will be closed for holiday on Monday, November 11.

Wednesday, November 6 is the final day to send clinical specimens for **AFB Smear and Culture and MTBC PCR** to the PHL for processing before the holiday. Any TB/AFB specimens collected after courier pickup on Wednesday, November 6 through Saturday, November 9 should be refrigerated until they can be sent to the OSDH PHL. Normal operations will resume Tuesday, November 12.

Wednesday, November 6 is the final day to send **COVID-19 PCR** diagnostic specimens before the holiday. COVID-19 diagnostic specimens collected Thursday, November 7 through Friday, November 8 should be tested with a rapid, non-PCR test only.

COVID PCR testing will resume in the PHL on Tuesday, November 12.

Non-COVID specimens (e.g., Newborn screening, STI) collected during the week will be processed normally starting on Tuesday, November 12. COVID sequencing (not diagnostic) specimens should be forwarded to the PHL as usual.

Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29 (Thanksgiving)

The Public Health Laboratory will be closed for holidays on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29.

Monday, November 25 is the final day to send clinical specimens for **AFB Smear and Culture and MTBC PCR** to the PHL for processing before the holiday. **Please do not collect any TB/AFB specimens on Wednesday, November 27 to avoid cancelation by the reference lab due to the specimen being too old upon receipt.** Specimens collected Thursday, November 28 through Saturday, November 30 should be refrigerated until they can be sent to the OSDH PHL. Normal operations will resume on Monday, December 2.

Monday, November 25 is the final day to send **COVID-19 PCR** diagnostic specimens before the holiday. COVID-19 diagnostic specimens collected Tuesday, November 26 through Wednesday, November 27 should be tested with a rapid, non-PCR test only.

COVID PCR testing will resume in the PHL on Monday, December 2.

Non-COVID specimens (e.g., Newborn screening, STI) collected during the week will be processed normally starting on Monday, December 2. COVID sequencing (not diagnostic) specimens should be forwarded to the PHL as usual.

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24 & 25 (Christmas)

The Public Health Laboratory will be closed for holidays on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25.

Wednesday, December 18 is the final day to send clinical specimens for **AFB Smear and Culture and MTBC PCR** to the PHL for processing before the holiday. **Please do not collect any TB/AFB specimens after courier pickup on Wednesday, December 18 through Monday, December 23, to avoid cancelation by the reference lab due to the specimen being too old upon receipt.**

Wednesday, December 18 is the final day to send COVID-19 PCR diagnostic specimens to the PHL for processing before the holiday. COVID-19 diagnostic specimens collected Wednesday, December 18 through Friday, December 20 should be tested with a rapid, non-PCR test only.

COVID PCR testing will resume in the PHL on Thursday, December 26.

Non-COVID specimens (e.g., Newborn screening, STI) collected and sent on Monday, December 23 will be processed normally starting on Thursday, December 26. COVID sequencing (not diagnostic) specimens should be forwarded to the PHL as usual.

If you have any questions, please contact PublicHealthLab@health.ok.gov .

Thank you,
PHL Staff