



Date: May 6, 2022

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION ADVISORY:

Alternative Means of Submitting Rabies and Mosquito Specimens Required

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Austin Laboratory has been notified that the Greyhound Bus terminal at 916 E Koenig Ln. Austin, TX 78751 will **permanently close on May 30, 2022**, but are **ceasing freight transport May 15, 2022**. The Austin terminal closure will affect the ground transportation options available for shipping rabies and mosquito specimens to the Laboratory. From May 15 onward, rabies specimens will need to be delivered directly to the Austin Laboratory or transported by an alternative courier service of your choice. DSHS is currently investigating alternative shipping arrangements and will notify submitters of new options, if available. Should you have questions about the closure of the Greyhound station, please call (512) 776-7598.

Please Note

*Specimens sent to the Austin Greyhound terminal for pick up by laboratory staff **on or after May 15 cannot not be collected and could be returned or lost!***

- Packages transported by ground and overnight courier services (USPS, FedEx, UPS, LoneStar Overnight, etc.) are not affected by the Austin Greyhound terminal closure and will be accepted at the Laboratory during regular business hours Monday–Friday (8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.).
- Hand-delivered samples are unaffected by the closure and may be delivered to Specimen Acquisition (Laboratory Specimen Receiving Dock) during regular business hours. The Specimen Receiving Dock is on the north side of the Laboratory building and is accessible from Grover Street.
- Regulatory packaging and shipping requirements are unaffected by the closure. Per regulations 49 CFR § 171-173, all rabies specimens must be packaged and properly labeled for shipping as a **Biological Substance, Category B UN3373**. Mosquito specimens must be shipped using the plastic collection cartons and insulated boxes provided by the Laboratory.
- Submitters of rabies specimens are still required to call the toll-free Rabies Hotline at 1-800-252-8163 to alert the Laboratory of the expected arrival time and to provide any other relevant information about the shipment.
- DSHS does not recommended specimens be shipped for weekend or holiday delivery, including by couriers that may offer weekend deliveries.

In the Event of an Emergency Situation

- **Rabies Specimens:** For emergency processing of a specimen on a Saturday, the submitter must first receive prior approval from the DSHS Laboratory. Please contact the Rabies Identification Team before 4 p.m. on Friday at (512) 776-7595. After 4 p.m. on Friday, call (512) 776-7111 and request to speak with a regional Zoonosis Control staff member. The specimen must arrive at the lab by 8 a.m. Saturday.
- **Mosquito Specimens:** Please call the DSHS Arbovirus/Entomology Laboratory Team at (512) 776-2442, or toll free at (888) 963-7111 ext. 2442 to discuss special testing requests.

Additional Shipping and Packaging Information

- **Rabies Specimens:** More information may be found at the website <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/Layouts/ContentPage.aspx?PageID=34563&id=34335>
- **Mosquito Specimens:** More information may be found at the website <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/lab/arbofieldsurveillance.shtm>

Shipping Addresses

Rabies Specimens

ATTN: Rabies Team
Texas Department of State Health Services
Laboratory Services Section
1100 W. 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Be sure to label the package with *BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B UN3373*, and *REFRIGERATE ON ARRIVAL*.

For laboratory questions about **rabies testing** or specimen suitability, please contact the Rabies Identification Team at (512) 776-7595, or email nachea.qualls@dshs.texas.gov.

Mosquito Specimens

ATTN: Arbovirus/Entomology Team
Texas Department of State Health Services
Laboratory Services Section
1100 W. 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

For laboratory questions about **mosquito/arbovirus testing** or specimen suitability, please contact Bethany Bolling at (512) 776-2442, or email bethany.bolling@dshs.texas.gov.