



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Paula F. Nickelson
Acting Director



Michael L. Parson
Governor

TO: Submitters of HIV and/or Syphilis Samples to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

FROM: Michael Massman, Laboratory Director
Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

DATE: November 1, 2022

RE: Change in Blood Transit Time

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) has determined that in order to improve patient care and the linkage to care directive, the laboratory will be decreasing the time that HIV and syphilis blood samples can be in transit from 10 days to 7 days.

In an effort to better align with prescribed testing parameters, the MSPHL has conducted in-house verifications to demonstrate that samples may be shipped at room temperature ($\leq 25^{\circ}\text{C}$) for up to seven (7) days. Blood samples should be tested within seven (7) days of collection with date of collection counting as Day 0. Store blood samples at $2-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ if not being delivered to a courier drop off location or to the MSPHL on date of collection. For shipments that are in transit for more than 7 days, serum must be removed from the red cells and kept frozen (-20°C or below) until tested.

Please ensure that the samples that your organization submits meet all standards for testing. Samples that are in transit greater than seven (7) days and do not have serum removed and frozen will be declared unsatisfactory for testing and will not be tested. The MSPHL will implement this change on January 1, 2023.

To assist in transporting samples to the MSPHL, please visit our web site at www.health.mo.gov/lab/courierservices.php to find the closest courier drop off location to your facility.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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