



**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES**

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COMMISSIONER

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**Re: Submission of Enteric Specimens**

Tennessee Public Health Clinics and Providers:

Effective immediately, we request all enterics specimens sent to the Tennessee Division of Laboratory Services be shipped to the Nashville facility. The Jackson and Knoxville Regional Laboratories will no longer offer enteric bacteria identification and characterization services.

This notice is not a replacement to T.C.A. 68-29-105, 1200-6-3-.12 Reportable Diseases; rather this is an update in shipping only. As a reminder, the Tennessee Division of Laboratory Services only accepts the following enteric specimens:

1. Pure enteric bacterial isolates submitted on a slant for food-borne disease surveillance. These include:
  - a. Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) *E.coli* O157 and Non-O157
  - b. Salmonella species
  - c. Shigella species
  - d. Campylobacter species
  - e. Vibrio species and Yersinia species
    - i. *Vibrio* and *Yersinia* testing is performed on request only. Call ahead before sending isolates or stools.
2. Shiga toxin positive stools placed in appropriate transport media or EIA positive broth for shiga toxin.
3. Campylobacter EIA positive broth or stool in appropriate transport media
4. Stool specimens in a Para-Pak or Cary-Blair Transport Media from a County or Regional Public Health Clinic only. Fresh stools without transport media will not be accepted.
5. Enteric samples are accepted from hospitals / providers directly only in outbreak situations with approval from epidemiology.

Further questions can be directed to Sheri Roberts, Supervisor of Enteric Bacteriology at the Nashville Central Laboratory at 615-262-6471 or [Sheri.Roberts@tn.gov](mailto:Sheri.Roberts@tn.gov).

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