



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

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Public Health Division of Public Health

**SCOTT M. SHONE, PhD, HCLD (ABB)** • Laboratory Director, State  
Laboratory of Public Health

# Memo

**To:** All North Carolina Local Health Departments

**From:** Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Director, State Laboratory of Public Health

**Date:** January 10, 2023

**Re:** Courier Schedules and Sample/Specimen Transport – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2023

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The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) medical courier, STAT Courier, **will not operate** Monday, January 16, 2023, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The State Mail Service Center will also be closed for operations January 16, 2023. [UPS](#) and [FedEx](#) **will operate** normally on Monday, January 16, 2023.

STAT Courier:

1. **Will** deliver specimens picked up on Friday, January 13, 2023 to NCSLPH by Saturday, January 14, 2023.
2. **Will** resume normal operations on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

The NCSLPH will accept specimens for testing on Monday, January 16, 2023.

Specimens collected after the STAT Courier pick up on January 13, 2023, *may* need to be frozen prior to pick up on January 17, 2023. Please refer to NCSLPH [SCOPE Appendix A](#) or the [NCSLPH Specimen Storage and Shipping Guide](#) for detailed specimen storage requirements. Specimens with stability at 2-8°C for  $\leq 4$  days must be frozen for transport by STAT Courier to SLPH after the holiday weekend. All other clinical specimens collected for testing at SLPH that require 2-8°C shipping should be kept refrigerated for transport by STAT Courier to SLPH after the holiday weekend.

Submitters must notify STAT Courier dispatch and NCSLPH of the need for frozen specimen transport via email ([dispatch@stat-courier.com](mailto:dispatch@stat-courier.com) and [SLPH.courier@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:SLPH.courier@dhhs.nc.gov)) no later than January 13, 2023. Please include the following information in the email:

1. Account #: 1124 (NCSLPH)
2. The Local Health Department location
3. The number of frozen specimens that will need to be picked up

If notified in advance, STAT Courier will have dry ice in their vehicle to keep specimens frozen for transport to NCSLPH. Please write “Keep Frozen” on the specimen bag to ensure STAT Courier keeps the specimens frozen during transport and storage at NCSLPH.

Submitters must ensure that specimens and samples are stored using the proper conditions until the above couriers resume normal operations. Improperly stored or transported specimens may be rejected for testing. The NCSLPH will request recollection of specimens if needed for testing.

If you have any questions, please contact NCSLPH Customer Service at 919-733-3937, or call STAT Courier Dispatch at 636-695-5879 or 888-592-7828.

If submitters need courier bags, labels, or other specimen/sample submission supplies, they can be ordered on the NCSLPH Mailroom Supply Portal (<https://slphreporting.dph.ncdhhs.gov/labportal/>).

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

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

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