



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Revised Specimen Deliveries to MDH Laboratories for the Columbus Day Holiday 2026

The MDH Laboratories will be operating on an abbreviated holiday schedule over the upcoming holiday to receive *Newborn and Clinical* specimens for testing. Our Holiday schedule is as follows:

MDH Central Laboratory

Saturday, October 10, 2026	<i>Open for Clinical specimens 7:30am-12:00pm</i>
	<i>Open for Newborn specimens 7:30am-2:00pm</i>
Sunday, October 11, 2026	CLOSED
Monday, October 12, 2026	<i>Open for Clinical and Newborn specimens 7:30am-2:00pm</i>

MDH Eastern Shore Regional Laboratory (ESRL)

Saturday, October 10, 2026	CLOSED
Sunday, October 11, 2026	CLOSED
Monday, October 12, 2026	CLOSED

MDH Western Maryland Regional Laboratory (WMRL)

Saturday, October 10, 2026	CLOSED
Sunday, October 11, 2026	CLOSED
Monday, October 12, 2026	CLOSED

Specimens collected for COVID-19 and Mpox testing can be stored and transported on cold packs refrigerated (2-8°C) for up to 72 hours after collection before delivery to the MDH Central Laboratory for testing.

Specimens that cannot be delivered for testing at the MDH Central Laboratory within 72 hours after collection must be frozen and stored at < -70°C and transported frozen on dry ice. Therefore, please plan the COVID-19 and Mpox specimen collection accordingly over the holiday.

For urgent rabies exposure testing and other after hour emergency testing requests see instructions on page 7 of the Guide to Public Health Laboratory Services on the MDH Laboratory's homepage:

<https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/home.aspx>