



January 10, 2018

Dear OSPHL Clients,

Beginning February 1, 2018, the OSPHL will discontinue processing of HIV specimens to remove serum from the clot on Saturdays.

OSPHL staff have been processing specimens on Saturdays to remove serum from the clot to ensure specimens satisfy the specimen acceptance criteria for the Geenius method, which is used for confirmation of HIV screening positive results and/or HIV-1/HIV-2 differentiation. The acceptance criteria state that serum must be removed from the clot within three calendar days (72 hours) of specimen collection.

If you have specimens for HIV testing to send to the OSPHL which will arrive on Saturdays, you may:

1. Remove serum from the clot before transporting the specimens to the OSPHL (preferred).
2. Transport the specimens, but know that the serum may not satisfy specimen acceptance criteria if it is removed from the clot more than three calendar days after specimen collection and HIV differentiation is indicated as result of screening. In such case the patient's specimen would need to be re-collected.
3. Send the specimen to a different reference laboratory for testing.

The following OSPHL courier pick-up windows are typically delivered to the OSPHL on Saturdays:

- Within the Portland Metro Area: Specimens picked up on Fridays between 3:00pm and 5:00pm.
- Outside the Portland Metro Area: Specimens picked up anytime on Fridays.

If you would like to check your address to see whether it is considered within the Portland Metropolitan Area boundary, you can use [Senvoy's Route Check website](#).

A recent analysis shows that discontinuing the practice of processing specimens at the OSPHL on Saturdays would affect less than five patients per year and keep the laboratory from incurring significant overtime costs.

If you have questions about this change, please contact Sarah Humphrey, Client Services Coordinator at sarah.m.humphrey@dhsosha.state.or.us or 503-693-4124.

Sincerely,

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OSPHL HIV Testing Algorithm:

