



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of General Services  
Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services*

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## **NEW Specimen Acceptance Criteria 7/24/2024**

The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) strives to promote a healthier, safer world through quality laboratory service. DCLS performs laboratory testing under several accreditation standards including the federally regulated Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Per CLIA regulation §493.1232 Standard: Specimen Identification and Integrity, DCLS must comply with the specimen collection, holding, shipping and integrity guidelines provided in package inserts for FDA-approved test methods. Therefore, DCLS must receive specimens at the stated temperature and timeframe for a sample to be considered acceptable for testing.

Due to a recent finding from CLIA, DCLS must immediately begin monitoring arrival temperatures of packages containing clinical specimens and isolates to ensure acceptability for testing. Information regarding proper specimen collection, storage, and shipping is available on the Department of General Services (DGS) DCLS website under the appropriate clinical test in the Clinical Test Catalog (<https://dgs.virginia.gov/division-of-consolidated-laboratory-services/lab-services/test-catalog/>). If a requested test is not listed, please contact DCLS directly for guidance. Please call 804-648-4480 and request to speak to the testing Laboratory.

**UPDATE:** Beginning Thursday, July 25, 2024, DCLS will reject any specimen that does not meet stated temperature and specimen receipt timeframe requirements.

We appreciate your understanding and ask for your support in helping us achieve the highest quality standards for the Commonwealth's laboratory testing. We apologize for the shortened notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Bibbs-Freeman", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Marilyn Bibbs-Freeman, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director