

**TO:** All Medical Staff**FROM:** Lorin Bachmann, Ph.D., DABCC *LB*
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Referrals Coordinator, PathologySusan D. Roseff, M.D. *SR*
Chair, Division of Clinical Pathology**DATE:** February 1, 2023**SUBJECT: SBAR: Severe winter weather conditions impacting shipping and delivery services to reference laboratories****Situation:**

Availability of the **CD3/CD4/CD8 Panel; Lymphocyte Enumeration Panel; Lymphocyte Subset 6 Panel; Flow Cytometry (Integrated Oncology); and other time-sensitive reference laboratory tests** affected by severe winter weather conditions impacting shipping and delivery services.

Background:

FedEx and UPS have experienced substantial disruptions at Memphis and Dallas/Ft. Worth hubs due to severe winter weather (beginning 1/31/23 and continuing 2/1/23). Specimens shipped via commercial flights have also experienced delays.

Assessment:

Delays are expected to occur during this winter weather event for specimens shipped via FedEx, UPS, and commercial flights. These shipment delays impact specimen processing and specimens with short stability may be deemed unacceptable upon arrival at the reference laboratory.

Recommendation:

Pathology Referrals will continue to ship specimens during this time, however, please be advised that time-sensitive specimens (i.e., short stability specimens that must be received at a reference laboratory within 0-72 hours after collection) may be delayed and testing will be cancelled by the reference laboratory if specimen stability is compromised.

Please refer to a reference laboratory's website for detailed information about sample stability, storage, and transport requirements for each specific test prior to specimen collection. Pathology Referrals continues to monitor conditions impacting shipping and delivery services.

If you have questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at 804-828-7284 (8-PATH).

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