

Dual Path Platform (DPP) Submission Policy Instructions to Designated Accredited Veterinarians

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) has recognized that some samples collected for the DPP assay for tuberculosis testing are not received at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in a timely manner consistent with the instructions provided in [VS Guidance 6701.5](#). Further, some samples are submitted to NVSL with incomplete [VS Form 10-4](#) laboratory submission forms. Accredited veterinarians who are designated accredited veterinarians (DAVs) as defined in 9 CFR 77.20, are specially trained and approved to collect serum samples for the DPP assay. The DAV is responsible for the collection of samples, preparation of samples, accurate completion of the VS Form 10-4 submission form, and submission of samples to NVSL. VSG 6701.5 allows a maximum time of 10 calendar days for samples to be received at NVSL after collection and clarifies the submission policy, including the following instructions for accredited veterinarians, producers, and regulatory officials.

- 1) Samples collected for DPP assay must be received by NVSL no later than 10 calendar days after the sample collection date.
- 2) Samples must be shipped so they are received by NVSL Monday through Friday.
- 3) Samples must not be shipped for receipt by NVSL on weekends or federal holidays.
- 4) Sample submission forms must be accurate, complete, and must include a sample collection date. For detailed instructions on how to complete the laboratory submission form, refer to the reverse side of [VS Form 10-4](#).

Samples received by NVSL more than 10 calendar days after the sample collection date will be classified as not meeting the test submission requirements.

Samples submitted to NVSL without a collection date or other required information will be classified as not meeting submission requirements until the submitting accredited veterinarian provides a corrected copy of the VS Form 10-4 to the NVSL.

Samples received on the weekend will be considered to have been received on the following business day and classified as not meeting submission requirements if the resulting period exceeds 10 calendar days from the collection date.

Samples received on a federal holiday will be considered received the following business day and classified as not meeting submission requirements if the resulting period exceeds 10 calendar days from the collection date.

Samples received after 10 calendar days or otherwise determined to be not meeting submission requirements will not be processed at NVSL unless the state animal health official of the state of residence determines that there were mitigating factors that delayed submission. NVSL will notify VS Cervid Health Staff of any samples received more than 10 calendar days after the sample collection date. Cervid Health Staff will coordinate with SAHO to determine if samples will be approved for testing and relay the decision to NVSL.

Repeated failures to comply with submission requirements may result in the removal of DAV status. Falsification of collection dates or samples may result in the removal of accreditation.

Inquiries – please contact the [State Animal Health Official](#) or [Area Veterinarian in Charge](#) of your respective state.