



For Immediate Release
July 30, 2021

Texas Animal Health Commission Closing State-Federal Laboratory in Austin

AUSTIN, TX - The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will close the Texas State-Federal Laboratory in Austin on August 31, 2021 and transition regulatory testing services to the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL).

While TVMDL will assume the role as the state’s regulatory animal health laboratory, the TAHC will continue to enforce regulations to prevent, control, and eradicate foreign and domestic infectious animal diseases which threaten livestock and poultry.

“The closure of the Texas State-Federal Laboratory comes after the 2019-2020 Sunset Advisory Commission determined the lab was no longer the most cost-effective option for regulatory testing,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian. “We are thankful for the decades of service the Texas State-Federal Laboratory has provided, and we look forward to the future partnership with TVMDL as they take on this valuable and important role.”

All testing performed at the Texas State-Federal Laboratory will be discontinued on August 20, 2021 and TVMDL will begin testing on August 21, 2021. To ensure there is not a delay in service, TAHC recommends clients begin sending samples to TVMDL on August 18.

The TAHC and TVMDL are working closely to ensure a smooth transition. Clients are invited to view test offerings listed on the TVMDL website. To learn more about sample collection, submission, turnaround times, and the TVMDL locations that offer each test visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.

Coordination efforts between the TAHC and TVMDL to continue providing necessary supplies for required and voluntary regulatory testing are underway.

“TVMDL is grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve Texans through the acquisition of these additional testing services,” said Dr. Amy Swinford, TVMDL Interim Director. “TVMDL has a long history of working with TAHC to ensure animal and public health in Texas is protected, and this is another great example of the collaboration enjoyed by our two agencies.”

Tests Transferring from TAHC to TVMDL
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (Card agglutination)
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (Plate agglutination)
Pseudorabies virus (gB ELISA)
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (BAPA)
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (FPA)
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (Rivanol precipitation)
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (Tube agglutination)
<i>Brucella abortus / suis</i> (CF) [Referral]
Identification of ectoparasites (ticks and mites) and fly larvae



For more information about TVMDL's testing services, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu or call the agency's headquarters in College Station at 1-888-646-5623.

For more information about the TAHC's transfer of testing services to TVMDL, call the TAHC at 512-832-6580 through August 31 and 512-719-0700 after August 31. Information will be available at tahc.texas.gov.

###

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.