

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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December 17, 2018

SUBJECT: New Specimen Testing Kit Requirement (Driving Cases)

Effective February 1, 2019, the DPS Crime Laboratory will no longer accept specimens for testing in driving cases that are not packaged in a DPS Blood Kit. This new policy will result in greater evidence security, sample processing efficiency, personnel safety, and easier storage for both short and long term retention.

The DPS Blood Kit contains all the materials necessary to meet mailing requirements for biological hazards. It is designed to be sent through the mail with no additional packaging necessary, and provides all the evidence seals needed to secure biological specimens. Even for specimens being delivered to the laboratory in person, the evidence may need to be returned to the submitting agency, shipped between DPS regional laboratories, or forwarded to an outside testing facility based upon prosecutor or defense requests. The DPS Blood Kit provides added protection from breakage of blood tubes, has absorbent material to limit exposure for personnel in the case of tube breakage, ensures the tubes remain in the packaging throughout the analysis process, and provides ease of location in storage.

In the instance of hospital tube submissions, please call the laboratory for packaging instructions.

DPS Blood Kits can be purchased through one of the following options:

- 1) DPS General Stores
Local government entities only will need to enter into an inter-local contract found at the following link: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/FormDetail.aspx?Id=3089&FormNumber=GS-20.pdf>
Any questions regarding the inter-local contract or purchasing through DPS General Stores can be sent via email to gsoutsidesales@dps.texas.gov.
- 2) Texas Smart Buy Contract 193-A2 <http://www.txsmartbuy.com/product/5641674>
Any questions for how to purchase through Texas Smart Buy can be directed via email to members@cpa.texas.gov or via telephone to 1-888-479-7602.

Questions and concerns regarding this new policy can be addressed to Dana Baxter at dana.baxter@dps.texas.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brady Mills'.

Brady Mills
Crime Laboratory Director
Texas Department of Public Safety