TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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February 18, 2020

Dear DPS Laboratory Clients:

As previously reported, the new THC testing methodology for plant material is expected to be finalized by Sam Houston State University (SHSU) near the end of March. Once delivered by SHSU, the DPS Crime Laboratory Service will require 60 days to conduct implementation validation studies and develop training on the method and related testimony techniques.

Once the implementation is finalized, DPS will begin testing the 845 felony plant material cases submitted with offense dates after June 10, 2019. DPS anticipates it will take approximately 75 days to complete testing on these cases, after which, DPS will begin to accept and test the felony plant material cases lab customers are currently holding. DPS lab customers should contact their local crime laboratory to schedule appointments and discuss felony testing needs.

DPS laboratories analyze more than 50,000 felony drug cases per year and we do not accept misdemeanor cases. The 86th Legislature added resources to the laboratory to help expedite the analysis of those felony cases, however, additional funding to address misdemeanor cases was not provided because the laboratory does not analyze misdemeanor drug cases. Annually, there are more than 80,000 misdemeanor marijuana arrests made in Texas. DPS will not have the capacity to accept those misdemeanor cases. Additionally, at this time, the Texas testing method is solely for plant material cases. Evaluations for use of this method or alternate methods for testing felonies associated with cannabis derivatives (oils, edibles, etc) will be ongoing in 2020.

Sincerely,

Steven C. McCraw

Steven C. McCraw
Director