

URGENT NOTICE SPECIMEN STABILITY

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Dear Valued PathGroup Client:

Summer is officially here and temperatures are heating up! PathGroup would like to remind all clients that **specimens must be kept from extreme temperatures in order to provide optimal stability and validity for patient results.** To preserve specimen stability during the summer months, PathGroup recommends specimens be placed in the lockbox 30 minutes before your scheduled courier pick up or as close to your scheduled pick up time as possible. Purple top tubes for Complete Blood Count (CBC) analysis, in particular, must be kept cool.

A step-by-step guide of recommended lockbox preparations during extreme warm weather is detailed below. For further questions, please contact Client Services at 615-562-9300 or 1-888-474-5227.

Lockbox Preparation

- **Step 1:** When possible, house your lockbox indoors when not in use.

- **Step 2:** Prior to setting your lockbox outdoors for pick up, place a frozen pack inside. While simultaneously cooling the lockbox, cold packs must be separated from the specimen(s) by a barrier to prevent freezing.

- **Step 3:** Ensure proper insulation between the frozen pack and specimen(s) to prevent the specimen(s) from freezing. Acceptable barriers include cardboard, absorbent pad or layered paper towels.

- **Step 4:** Place specimen(s) in the lockbox, lock the box and place outside in its normal location for courier pickup.