NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION
Raleigh, North Carolina

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

MPID NOTICE	**5-26**	**4-14-2026**

ROUTINE PATHOLOGY SAMPLE COLLECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED REPORTABLE OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides Veterinary Medical Officers and TA Coordinators with guidance for routine pathology samples from TA and State inspected establishments as well as notification procedures for suspected reportable or foreign animal diseases.

II. CANCELLATION

None

III. REFERENCE

FSIS Directive 6000.1 Rev 2 dated 11/20/2025

IV. ROUTINE PATHOLOGY SAMPLES FROM TA INSPECTED SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS

A. Follow FSIS Directive 10,230.6 *Submitting Tissue Specimens for Pathologic Evaluation to the Laboratory* and the Multi-species Disposition Basics with a Public Health Focus Guidebook.

V. ROUTINE PATHOLOGY SAMPLES FROM STATE-INSPECTED SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENT

1. Request approval for sample submission from TA Coordinator.

2. Collect and package sample(s) as appropriate based on suspected etiology following North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System User Guide. All samples should be billed to NCDA&CS-Meat & Poultry Inspection Division. Contact MPID Accounting Technician for account number.

3. Deliver sample(s) to the nearest NCDA&CS Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

• Arden Lab	(828) 684-8188	Fletcher, NC
• Elkin Lab	(336) 526-2499	Elkin, NC
• Griffin Lab	(704) 289-6448	Monroe, NC
• Rollins Lab	(919) 733-3986	Raleigh, NC

NOTE: If needed, make arrangements through the TA Coordinator for assistance from other field staff to deliver sample(s) to the lab.

4. Test results should be emailed to TA Coordinator when received by the submitter. Follow up with a phone call as needed to ensure TA Coordinator has received results.

VI. NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED REPORTABLE OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES (STATE-INSPECTED OR TA-INSPECTED ESTABLISHMENT)

1. Call your TA Coordinator immediately. If you are unable to contact your TA Coordinator, contact the TA Coordinator for the other region. If you are unable to contact either TA Coordinator, call the State Director. Do **NOT** simply leave a voicemail. Call or text until you get 1 of the 3 people mentioned above on the phone.

2. Tell the individual that you reasonably suspect a reportable or foreign animal disease exists in an animal (or carcass) you have evaluated. Be prepared to share as much of the following information as possible but do not delay notification to gather all the information:
    a. Producer's name, address, county, and phone number
    b. Establishment name, address, county, phone number, and contact person
    c. Number and species of animals affected that were presented for slaughter
    d. Any clinical history
    e. What conditions, signs, or gross lesions are present

3. The TA Coordinator will notify the State Director who will notify Veterinary Division. If the TA Coordinator is unable to reach the State Director, the TA Coordinator should immediately notify Veterinary Division via email to: Michael.Martin@ncagr.gov and Catherine.Harris@ncagr.gov

    The email should include relevant information provided by the Veterinarian (i.e., 2a through 2e above as available) as well as the reporting Veterinarian's name and phone number. The reporting Veterinarian should be copied on the email.

4. If a zoonotic disease is suspected that is subject to NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH) reporting requirements (e.g., rabies), the TA Coordinator and State Director will discuss notification of NC DPH.

5. If the report is associated with a TA-inspected establishment, the TA Coordinator will notify the District Office.

6. The reporting Veterinarian should inform plant management that the animal or carcass has signs or lesions requiring consultation with the Raleigh Office and follow up testing.

7. Once notified, personnel from Veterinary Division may reach out directly to the MPID Veterinarian for additional details and with instructions for next steps. Veterinary Division will coordinate with APHIS, as appropriate, and may dispatch Veterinary Division or APHIS personnel to the premises. A representative of Veterinary Division may not reach out in all cases, so confirmation from Veterinary Division of receipt of information is not to be expected.

8. MPID Veterinarians should follow any instructions offered by Veterinary Division representatives for sample or data collection as appropriate including delivering the sample(s) to the closest NCDA&CS Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. The TA Coordinator can make arrangements for assistance from other field staff to deliver sample(s) to the lab if needed. Samples from State-inspected establishments should **not** be submitted directly to NVSL unless specifically instructed to do so by Veterinary Division or APHIS personnel.

9. MPID Veterinarian should call the TA Coordinator to summarize key developments once samples have been submitted. The TA Coordinator will update the State Director.

10. Test results should be emailed to TA Coordinator when received by the submitter. Follow up with a phone call as needed to ensure TA Coordinator has received results. The TA Coordinator will update the State Director.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact your supervisor.

Dr. Karen Beck
State Director

DISTRIBUTION:	**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**
RMVOs, TA Coordinators, Training Staff	Slaughter