

# LAB REPORT

*Nebraska State Patrol  
Crime Laboratory*



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### EVIDENCE RECEIPT HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
9AM - 4PM

### CONTACT

3977 AIR PARK RD. LINCOLN, NE 68524  
PHONE: (402) 471-8950  
FAX: (402) 471-8954

The Mission of the Crime Laboratory Division is to provide quality and timely forensic science services to the State of Nebraska. To fulfill the mission of the laboratory, the following objectives are supported and understood by the staff of the NSP Crime Laboratory:

To provide timely, effective and impartial forensic services to aid in the investigation of crimes; To provide relevant, professional and impartial testimony in judicial proceedings; To disseminate scientific information and educate the criminal justice community regarding forensic science matters; To provide traceable and accurate results that are pertinent to the needs of the criminal justice community.

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# ABOUT US

# LAB EXPANSION

## Update

Our Facility Expansion Project continues to move right along. In January, the Toxicology and Controlled Substances sections moved into their new, expanded space. The Evidence Receiving and Administration sections are planning to move into their newly expanded space right after Memorial Day. The final expansion area will include new space for Latent Prints and DNA Database as well as expanded space for DNA Casework.

Following the move to the newly expanded space, remodel work will start on the interior creating more useable space for the Firearms/Tool Marks section and a training room large enough to accommodate the entire Crime Lab team.

I cannot thank the whole team enough for their flexibility and accommodating attitude during this two-year project. This includes the Crime Lab Team, the Scheele-Kayton Construction team and each of their subcontractors, the Leo A. Daly and MWL architect firms, and of course our own DAS Building Division Project Manager, Kevin Herr. Everyone involved in this project has gone above and beyond to ensure that the Crime Lab can continue to provide services to our customers through the entire project.

A special thank you to each of our customers who have navigated the ever-changing access path to reach evidence receiving or to give a deposition. Unfortunately, those shifts are not finished yet. Please check our website below or call ahead to ensure you know where to go when you get here.

–Jason Linder, Lab Director

<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/divisions/administrative-services/crime-laboratory>

## BEFORE DROPPING OFF EVIDENCE

Please call ahead to discuss the type of evidence you would like to submit and to schedule a time with our Forensic Technicians. Due to the construction, our space is limited at this time, so we would like to ensure we can accommodate your needs ahead of your arrival.

# LAB EXPANSION

*Update*



*Newly Completed Toxicology Lab*



*Newly Completed Toxicology Lab Instrument Room*



*Newly Completed Chemistry Office*



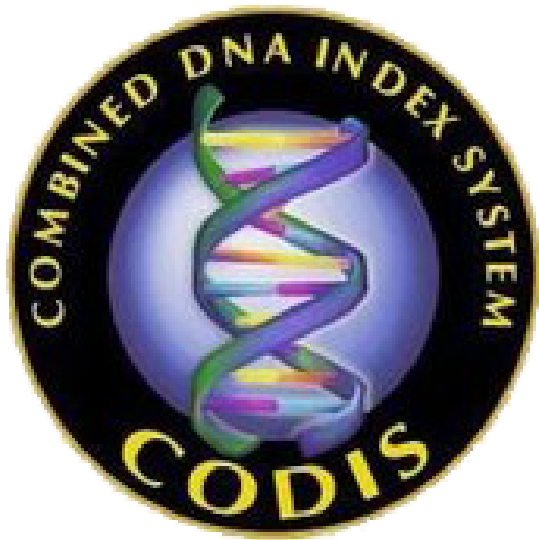
*New Evidence Receiving Workspace (Still in Progress)*



*New Biology Lab (Still in Progress)*

# BIOLOGY BULLETIN

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The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory (NSPCL) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Nebraska Medical Center Human DNA Identification (UNMC HDI) Laboratory to accept ownership of DNA profiles developed for the purpose of CODIS entry. This means that any case submitted and analyzed at the UNMC HDI Lab can have that data submitted to the NSPCL for CODIS evaluation. The process is simple. Go to our website (on page 2), fill out and submit a 751 form (CODIS Search/Upload Request Form) in its entirety, email the completed form to [nsp.codis@nebraska.gov](mailto:nsp.codis@nebraska.gov), and the NSPCL will take it from there. It is vital to be as

specific as you can when describing the facts of the case on the form including where an item was located, to whom an item belonged, and how an item is related to the crime. After a thorough review of the case facts and data, the NSPCL will issue a Laboratory Letter informing the law enforcement agency if the DNA profile(s) were entered into CODIS.

It is important to note that the UNMC HDI Lab is the **ONLY** private laboratory that the NSPCL will accept data from. Arrangements must be made with the NSPCL **PRIOR** to the analysis of the evidence at a private laboratory other than the UNMC HDI Lab, in order for a profile from the private laboratory to be eligible for CODIS.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact [nsp.codis@nebraska.gov](mailto:nsp.codis@nebraska.gov).

# STATISTICS

In addition to casework, analysts are often involved in activities such as testimony, attending or providing training, community outreach, instrument maintenance, method validations, and other quality assurance practices.

## TURN-AROUND TIMES

<b>14</b>	<b>CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES</b> NUMBER OF DAYS	<b>164</b>	<b>FIREARMS/TOOLMARKS</b> NUMBER OF DAYS
<b>42</b>	<b>BIOLOGY - VIOLENT CRIMES</b> NUMBER OF DAYS	<b>155</b>	<b>LATENT PRINTS</b> NUMBER OF DAYS
<b>53</b>	<b>BIOLOGY - NON-VIOLENT CRIMES</b> NUMBER OF DAYS	<b>28</b>	<b>TOXICOLOGY</b> NUMBER OF DAYS
<b>9</b>	<b>BIOLOGY - DATABANK</b> NUMBER OF DAYS		

Turn-around times may be impacted by requests for examinations that need to be completed by other sections first.

There are several things our submitting agencies are able to do that can impact our turn-around times. On the following pages you will find a list of helpful tips about what to do and what not to do when packaging and submitting items of evidence for different types of examinations within the laboratory.

**TURN AROUND TIMES ARE BASED ON A 3-MONTH AVERAGE AND ARE ACCURATE AS OF 4/1/2026.**

# DO & DON'T

## Do

### BIOLOGY

- Place biological evidence in breathable packaging (e.g., paper bags, envelopes, swab boxes). Biological evidence is any evidence that may have DNA testing requested in the future. Please avoid plastic (e.g., plastic bags, plastic tubes). This helps the evidence to “breathe,” which will reduce the chance for mold growth. Mold can inhibit the DNA testing process.

### TOXICOLOGY

- It's not necessary to use brown paper wrapping when utilizing the urine collection kits from Lynn Peavey.
- Please ensure lids are properly in place to reduce leaking.

### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- When heat-sealing your evidence, ensure that the heat-seal creates a complete seal.
- Place broken pipes in some sort of plastic container as they can cut through bags and envelopes.

## Don't

### BIOLOGY

- After placing an item in packaging, do not include the gloves you wore inside the packaging. This creates a huge risk of leaving behind your DNA and compromising the value of DNA found on the evidence.
- When collecting a reference sample from a suspect for an ongoing case, please do not use the Databank Collection Kit that is reserved for collection of convicted offenders. A standard set of swabs in a swab box and envelope will do!

### TOXICOLOGY

- If using brown paper wrapping to cover outer box, please do not tape it to the outer box so the forensic scientists can get the packaging off.

### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- Don't put loose crystalline substance/powder inside an envelope or large plastic bag. Instead, please place it into a smaller plastic bag and put that bag into the envelope or larger plastic bag.
- If your evidence is in a plastic bag, please seal the bag at the top (not bottom or middle) to ensure that the forensic scientists have room to reseal after it is opened for analysis.

# Do

## FIREARMS

- Please include all firearm magazines along with submitted firearms.
- Please send all fired ammunition evidence for evaluation and comparison to suspect firearms. Even damaged/fragmented items may have comparative value.
- Please protect the cutting/working surfaces of submitted tools so they aren't damaged or altered in transit.

## LATENT PRINTS

- Always wear gloves when handling evidence. If no gloves are worn, please share that information on submission.
- Please list all items for processing and the number of items (e.g., "eight plastic bags").
- Limit the handling of items to preserve any impressions and try to handle them in discrete areas.
- Please package items in paper, when possible, to prevent possibility of excessive moisture.
- All latent lifts from a scene can be packaged together.
- Latent lifts should be labeled with who collected it, where it was collected from, the item and its location on the item, case number, and date lifted.

## EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT

- Please remember that due to current construction, the evidence room is much smaller right now and it is helpful for evidence to be picked up promptly after notification.

# Don't

## FIREARMS

- Please don't disassemble firearms (due to packaging constraints, rendering safe, etc.). It is better to remove an accessory (scope, bi-pod, etc.) than risk the loss of parts or change the as-found relationships of firearm components.
- Please don't leave evidence packaging holes/crevices/seams untaped when severe biohazard material is present.
- Please don't include loose ammunition in firearm packaging. Ammunition can be contained in a separate envelope/bag within outer packaging.

## LATENT PRINTS

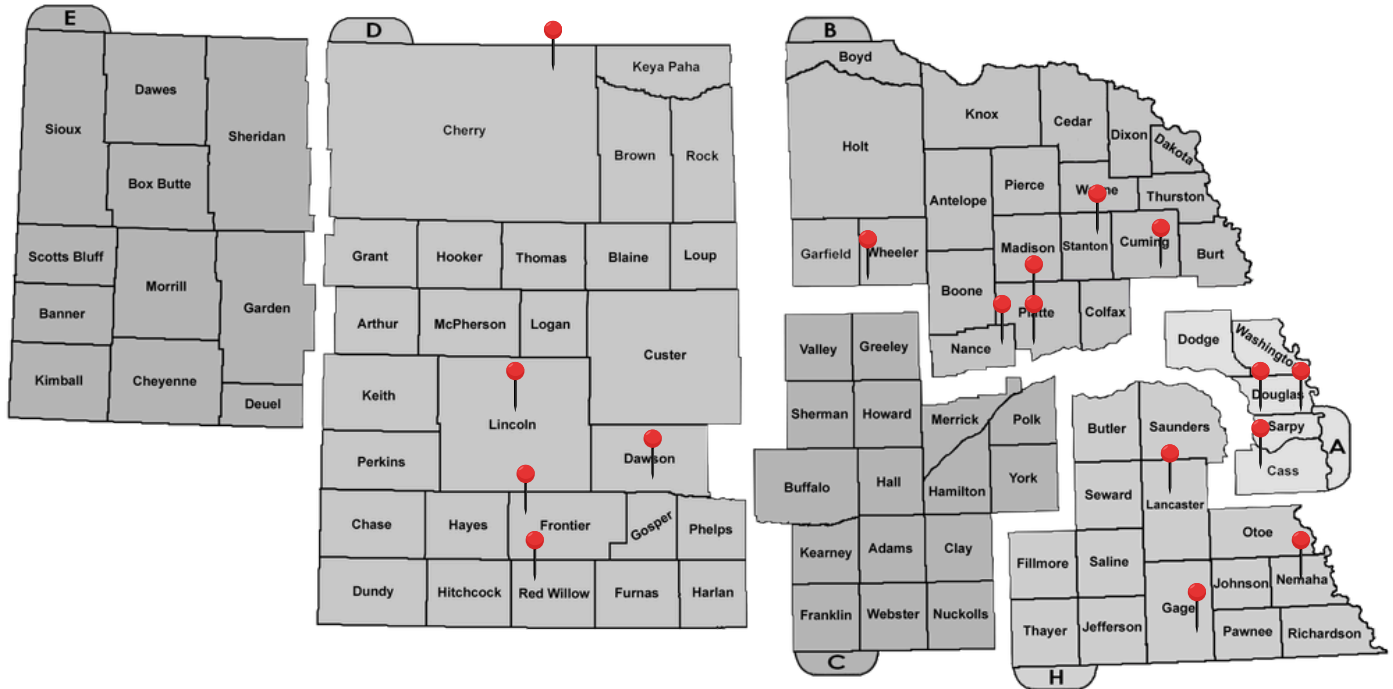
- Packages should not be tightly wrapped. Allowing some room helps the latent section open and close items without causing potential damage to possible impressions.
- Do not write on the side of the latent lift card that contains lifts (i.e., do not circle or point out impressions).

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions related to these topics, please reach out to the respective section on the [Contact Us](#) page.

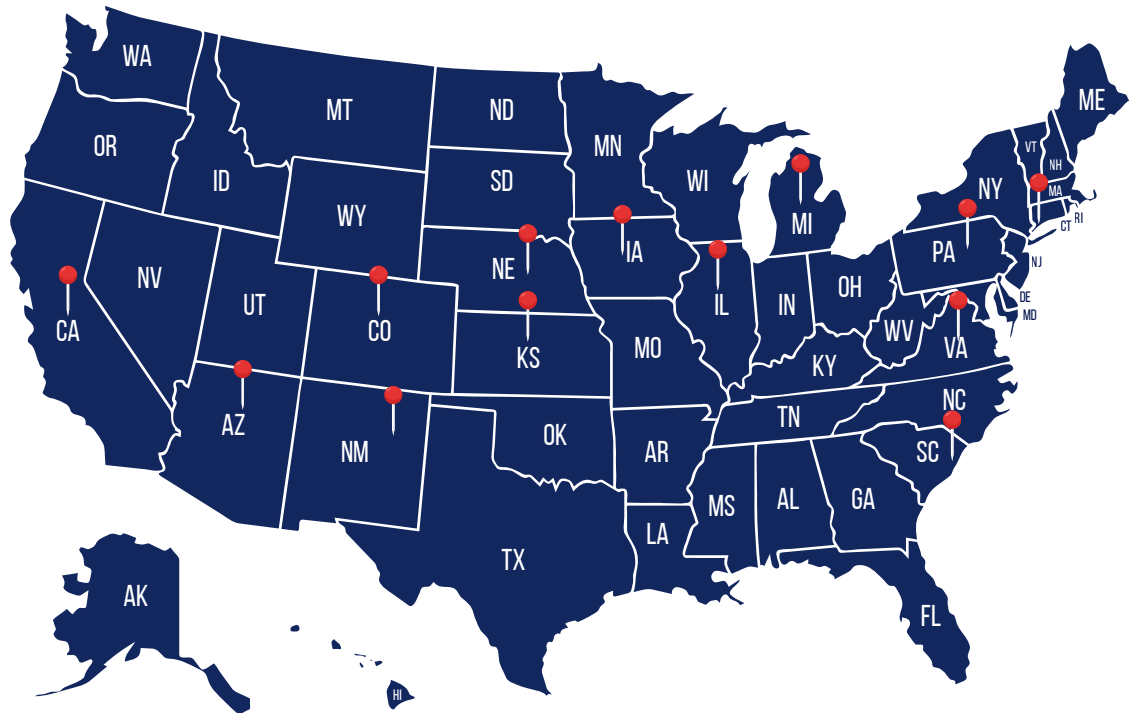
# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

Are the people that make up the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Lab from?



## Did you know...

THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL CRIME LAB IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER NEBRASKA AS WELL AS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



## Director

Jason Linder [jason.linder@nebraska.gov](mailto:jason.linder@nebraska.gov)

## Quality Assurance

Manager: Vicki Hopkins [vicki.hopkins@nebraska.gov](mailto:vicki.hopkins@nebraska.gov)

Case Management Supervisor: Tiffanie Leffler

## Biology & Physical Sciences

Manager: Jeff Bracht [jeff.bracht@nebraska.gov](mailto:jeff.bracht@nebraska.gov)

Biology-Databank Supervisor: Katherine Rector (Technical Leader/State CODIS Admin)

Biology-Casework Supervisor: Heidi Ellingson (Technical Leader)

Biology-Casework Supervisor: Brandy Porter

Firearms/Toolmarks Supervisor: Kent Weber (Technical Leader)

Latent Print Section Manager: Jeff Bracht

## Chemistry

Manager: Celeste Laird [celeste.laird@nebraska.gov](mailto:celeste.laird@nebraska.gov)

Controlled Substances Supervisor: Jerry D. Smith (Technical Leader)

Controlled Substances Supervisor: Spencer Effle

Toxicology Supervisor: Christine Reisen (Technical Leader)

## Questions?

### GENERAL QUESTIONS:

CALL: (402) 471-8950

EMAIL: [NSP.CRIMELAB@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NSP.CRIMELAB@NEBRASKA.GOV)

### EVIDENCE SUBMISSION QUESTIONS:

EMAIL: [NSP.CRIMELABEVIDENCE@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NSP.CRIMELABEVIDENCE@NEBRASKA.GOV)

### CODIS QUESTIONS:

EMAIL: [NSP.CODISHELPDESK@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NSP.CODISHELPDESK@NEBRASKA.GOV)

### RAPID DNA QUESTIONS:

EMAIL: [NSP.RAPID-DNA@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NSP.RAPID-DNA@NEBRASKA.GOV)

**Want more information on a topic in a future newsletter?**

EMAIL THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR: [NSP.CRIMELAB@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NSP.CRIMELAB@NEBRASKA.GOV)

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# CONTACT US