

# MLS Laboratory Update: Challenges to Accessing MDH-PHL building this Saturday 3/28/26

MARCH 27, 2026

## Purpose of this Message:

To inform MN laboratories of the potential restrictions and difficulties for couriers accessing the Public Health Lab on Saturday, March 28, 2026 due to a planned event on the state Capitol complex.

## Action Item:

Review the following information and share with your send outs department.

- Infectious Disease Laboratory (IDL) submissions ONLY: Consider holding samples until Monday, March 30, if testing is not urgent.
- Newborn Screening and Environmental Laboratory: Follow regular shipping guidelines

## Background:

A large event is planned in downtown St. Paul for Saturday, March 28, that will culminate in a rally on the state Capitol Complex. The event starts around 12 PM with three marches that are expected to arrive on the Capitol grounds by 2 PM. This event is expected to bring tens of thousands of participants to the area immediately surrounding the Public Health Laboratory. Due to these activities, access to the Public Health Laboratory loading dock area will be restricted to entrance from the south on Cedar to Columbus Avenue and may be difficult for couriers.

- The PHL Loading Dock will be open to receive samples from UPS, FedEx and other couriers on Saturday 3/28 from 8 am to 12 pm.
- Due to road closures and anticipated heavy traffic in the area, there may be delays in getting through to the PHL Loading Dock.
- When possible, IDL recommends holding specimens and samples until Monday, March 30, to minimize activity in the area.

## Additional Information:

More information about this event can be found through various news outlets:

[MPR News \(https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/03/23/no-kings-rallies-planned-across-minnesota-and-twin-cities-metro\)](https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/03/23/no-kings-rallies-planned-across-minnesota-and-twin-cities-metro)

[KSTP \(https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/no-kings-protest-could-draw-crowds-of-150k/\)](https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/no-kings-protest-could-draw-crowds-of-150k/)

**Questions about this MLS:** During business hours, please contact: [Anna.Strain@state.mn.us](mailto:Anna.Strain@state.mn.us); or call (651) 201-5200.

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.*