

# Christmas & New Year 2025/26

## Courier Collection\*, Royal Mail\*\* last posting dates & Laboratory availability

Date	Opening Hours	Courier Collection
Tuesday 23rd December 2025	8.30 am - 5.00 pm	Normal courier collection
Wednesday 24th December 2025	8.30 am - 4.00 pm	<b>No courier collection</b>
Thursday 25th December 2025	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>No courier collection</b>
Friday 26th December 2025	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>No courier collection</b>
Saturday 27th December 2025	8.30 am - 12.00 pm	<b>No courier collection</b>
Monday 29th December 2025	8.30 am - 5.00 pm	Normal courier collection
Tuesday 30th December 2025	8.30 am - 5.00 pm	Normal courier collection
Wednesday 31st December 2025	8.30 am - 4.00 pm	<b>No courier collection</b>
Thursday 1st January 2026	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>No courier collection</b>
Friday 2nd January 2026	8.30 am - 5.00 pm	Normal courier collection

\* Courier collection is available for eligible UK mainland customers only.

### Royal Mail 2025 last posting dates:

1st Class	Saturday 20th December
Royal Mail Tracked 24	Sunday 21st December
Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed™	Tuesday 23rd December

\*\* If you wish to use Royal Mail to post samples to the lab while the couriers are unavailable, please order postal courier bags from MiLab Supplies website: <https://milab.store.unleashedsoftware.com>

### Advice for samples taken during the Christmas and New Year Periods.

For samples taken Wednesday 24th December to Sunday 28th December, Wednesday 31st December and Thursday 1st January, *please store all samples except slides & histology pots in the fridge until the day of the next courier collection.*

For **chemistry, serology or endocrinology tests**, please centrifuge as soon as possible after the clot forms and separate serum into a plain tube. Gel tubes are not ideal for longer storage and are not suitable for hormone or drug assays. If gel tubes are used they should be centrifuged and the serum can be poured into a plain tube after centrifugation, before refrigeration.

For **haematology**, make an air dried smear in addition to submitting whole EDTA.

Wherever clinically possible it would be best to take a fresh sample on the day the courier collection is scheduled rather than store for prolonged periods.

This is particularly important for **microbiology samples**.

If you are in doubt about the usefulness of a stored sample please feel free to ring and discuss before submitting.

For **tests referred to other labs** (see price list), some samples will be stored at our lab until after Christmas or New Year, depending on arrival date and fragility. Please consider this when planning turnaround times, or contact us for details on a specific sample.



**Wishing you all a Happy Christmas & New Year**