



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

### NOTICE OF DFS POLICY CHANGE

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To: All Agencies Serviced by Department of Forensic Science Laboratories  
From: Linda C. Jackson, Director *LCJ*  
Date: September 16, 2016  
RE: Revisions to Collection Time Periods for Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) Samples

Based upon current DNA analysis capabilities at the Department of Forensic Science (DFS) and publications and research funded by the National Institute of Justice, DFS is extending its recommended collection time periods for certain samples in the PERK (see table below).

Some of the more significant changes include allowing vaginal samples for rape allegations to be collected for up to 120 hours and for saliva samples on skin to be collected for up to 96 hours.

Type of Assault	Maximum Collection Time
<b>External</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cunnilingus (thighs/external genitalia sample only)</li> <li>Saliva on skin (bitemarks, kissing, etc.)</li> <li>Strangulation (neck sample only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 96 hours (4 days/no smears if sole allegation)</li> <li>Within 96 hours (4 days/no smears)</li> <li>Within 48 hours (2 days/no smears)</li> </ul>
<b>Vaginal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penile penetration</li> <li>Digital penetration (thighs/external genitalia sample only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 120 hours (5 days)</li> <li>Within 48 hours (2 days/no smears if sole allegation)</li> </ul>
<b>Anal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penile penetration</li> <li>Digital penetration (perianal/buttocks sample only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 72 hours (3 days)</li> <li>Within 48 hours (2 days/no smears if sole allegation)</li> </ul>
<b>Oral</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellatio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 24 hours (1 day)</li> </ul>
Unknown	Collect respective samples within the time frames listed above

Please implement the updated collection times immediately. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is aware of these modifications and will reimburse health care providers accordingly. Kits with new instructions will be available later this year.

For questions regarding this policy, please contact the Forensic Biology Section Supervisor at the DFS Laboratory that provides service to your agency:

- Central Laboratory – Lisa Schiermeier-Wood (804.588.4083)
- Eastern Laboratory – Anne Pollard (757.355.5983)
- Northern Laboratory – Karen Ambrozy (703.334.9743)
- Western Laboratory – Nicole Harold (540.283.5945)