

STATE OF KANSAS



DEPARTMENT OF THE
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
TOPEKA

January 20, 1940

Dear Doctor:

The State Board of Health, on November 22, 1939, passed a new regulation concerning the work of the laboratory, a copy of which is enclosed. You will note that the indigent statement formerly required on all blood specimens sent in for the serodiagnosis of syphilis has been abolished and from now on the physician must certify that it will be difficult or impossible for the patient to pay for having this examination made. This not only applies to specimens for the diagnosis of syphilis, but also to all other examinations, with the exception of tuberculosis. Also, the present ruling does away with free Wassermanns on pregnant women and from now on they must come under the same category as other patients.

Enclosed is a copy of the statute passed by the legislature in 1909 on the free diagnosis of tuberculosis. Attention is called to this statute which requires the laboratory to make examination of sputum from persons suspected of having tuberculosis, whether it is sent in by a physician or individual. Also a report must be given to either on request. As you will note this just covers tuberculosis.

I am sorry to inform you that under the new resolution all specimens mailed to the laboratory must be sent FIRST CLASS MAIL due to the certifying statement appearing on the "Data Blank". Previously, under the Postal Laws and Regulations, Sec. 589, Par. 4, the specimens could be sent Parcel Post rates, but would be pouch-ed with letter mail. Please note the changes in postage rates.

I would also like to call your attention to the following quotation from the "Laws, Rules and Regulations of the State Board of Health".

"Misuse of Outfits - Specimen outfits are distributed by the State Board of Health solely for use in sending specimens to the Public Health Laboratory. Their use in submitting specimens to private laboratories or for any other purpose than that specified constitutes a misuse of state property."

Our loss of outfits is very large and it would be appreciated if you will help us reduce the expense of purchasing so many new ones.

For your information as to the type of work done free by your laboratories, I would like to quote the following: