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## Updated 8/2/2019 Notice To All Customers – ChemaTox Laboratory Closing

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the coming closure of ChemaTox Laboratory. ChemaTox has provided reliable testing services, accessible scientific consulting, and knowable expert testimony to all facets of the legal community since 1977. In 2013, ChemaTox expanded to accommodate nearly 100% of forensic toxicology testing for law enforcement in Colorado subsequent to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) toxicology lab's sudden closure. Shortly after this, via HB 14-1340, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) opened a toxicology section within their laboratory system as a fee for service lab. In the years since, ChemaTox has continued to perform around 70% of all law enforcement toxicology testing in Colorado.

On June 6, 2019, CBI announced that they would be offering toxicology testing to law enforcement and coroners at no cost, effective July 1, 2019. This change was represented as being approved by Colorado legislators, a point that later became contested during and after the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) emergency hearing on July 26, 2019. ChemaTox was not notified about the intended changes by anyone in state government, nor were we consulted in any capacity prior to the change. As the primary provider of the law enforcement toxicology testing in the state of Colorado, this rapid change has had a swift and profound effect on our ability to continue operating. We explored many options attempting to save the company and it's 25 full time employees from this sudden closure. However, with no viable way to compete with free testing we sustained a loss of all but a few of our law enforcement clients. With continued drop off little could be done in the short time we had, leaving us with no other option but to close our laboratory. Additionally Governor Polis decided that he will not offer any possible relief or solution to ChemaTox for damage caused by this change.

Our last day accepting samples was July 31, 2019. We will maintain our CDPHE certification for all forensic toxicology testing until after we have completed testing on the last samples and transferred the remaining samples being held in storage at CBI. We expect testing and reporting to be finished by the end of September and all evidence to be moved by the end of October. Starting in November 2019 our services will be limited to consulting, testimony, and litigation support.

For more information about the impact of this closure on existing cases, please visit your website at [www.ChemaTox.com](http://www.ChemaTox.com). To reach me directly, please use my email, [sarah@chematox.com](mailto:sarah@chematox.com), or for an urgent question, please call me at 303-440-0269. Please contact Dan Anderson, the Laboratory Manager of CBI's Toxicology Forensic Services, at 303-463-7020 or [daniel.anderson@state.co.us](mailto:daniel.anderson@state.co.us) with any CBI specific questions. For all other questions, please call our main office at 303-440-4500.

The full breadth and depth of the impacts resulting from the Colorado legislator's sudden and sweeping changes to toxicology testing have yet to be fully realized however they will undoubtedly reverberate through our community for many years to come. While ChemaTox Laboratory is closing, I will remain active in forensic toxicology providing forensic toxicology consulting, and testimony services for the legal community in Colorado and beyond. My email address and phone numbers will stay the same. I hope to find other opportunities to continue to work with, and provide education for, the Colorado legal community. From all of our ChemaTox Laboratory family please accept our heartfelt thank you for allowing us to serve the people of Colorado and the Colorado legal community for the last 42 years.

Sincerely,

Sarah Urfer, M.S. D-ABFT-FT  
Laboratory Directory, Forensic Toxicologist