



UNDER the SCOPE

A Closer Examination
from the Benchtop



FEBRUARY 2026



UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: Crime Laboratory Overview and Evidence Packaging Training

WHEN: March 16, 2026
(1000-1500)

WHERE: Troop D Headquarters

We are excited to announce a training opportunity at Troop D Headquarters. This will be a free four-hour POST-certified class that is open to law enforcement personnel. It will cover an overview of all sections of the laboratory and their capabilities, with a special focus on evidence packaging. Space is limited so reserve your spots as soon as possible by contacting Jena.Nigus@mshp.dps.mo.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 12 Lincoln's Birthday
Laboratory Closed

FEB 16 President's Day
Laboratory Closed

MAR 16 Evidence Packaging Training
Troop D Headquarters

MAY 8 Truman Day
Laboratory Closed

Rapid DNA: Quick Results When Every Minute Counts

The Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) Crime Lab's Rapid DNA initiative enhances forensic intelligence by delivering real-time investigative leads, significantly accelerating case progress. Through close collaboration with law enforcement and community partners, Rapid DNA technology is integrated at the earliest stages of investigations, minimizing delays and improving case resolution efficiency. The program officially launched in 2023, marking a major step forward in modernizing forensic capabilities across Missouri.

To ensure statewide accessibility, the MSHP Crime Lab has deployed 11 Rapid DNA instruments across each Troop region. While "Rapid" doesn't mean instant results, it does offer a much faster turnaround than traditional DNA analysis, typically providing investigative information within approximately 90 minutes, depending on the sample.

Rapid DNA is designed to generate profiles from biological fluids originating from a single individual (no mixtures). Suitable samples can be searched against SmallPond, a database that mirrors Missouri's offender DNA profiles collected under state law (RSMo 650.055). It's important to note that SmallPond is not the same as the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database.

Currently, DNA profiles developed through Rapid DNA are not admissible in court, and the sample is consumed during processing. Therefore, multiple samples should be collected to allow for traditional DNA analysis, which is more sensitive and may yield results even when Rapid DNA does not.

With a calculated benefit-to-cost ratio of \$106.32, the Rapid DNA program delivers timely intelligence while demonstrating fiscal responsibility. Since its launch, Rapid DNA has aided several investigations across the state, helping law enforcement quickly identify suspects and rule out leads. As the initiative continues to expand, it reflects Missouri's commitment to public safety, innovation, and smarter justice.



Law Enforcement using Rapid DNA must complete a training session provided by the MSHP Crime Lab. To schedule training, please email:

submitrapid@mshp.dps.mo.gov

RAPID DNA LOCATIONS

Troop A - Lee's Summit

1900 NE Independence Ave
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
(816) 622-0707 ext. 3177

Troop B - Macon

308 Pine Crest Drive
Macon, MO 63552
(660) 385-2132

Troop C - Weldon Spring

891 Technology Drive
Weldon Spring, MO 63304
(636) 300-2800

Troop D - Springfield Lab

425 E. Phelps Street
Springfield, MO 65806
(417) 868-9400 ext. 4435

Troop E - Cape Girardeau Lab

122 S. Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
(573) 290-5130 ext. 4501

Troop G - Willow Springs

1226 W. Business Highway 60 / 63
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3121

Troop H - St. Joseph

3525 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506
(816) 387-2345

Troop I - Rolla

1301 Nagogami Road West
Rolla, MO 65402
(573) 368-2345

GHQ - DDCC

1510 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 751-3452



UNDER the SCOPE



...But make it RAPID

Q: Who is authorized to use Rapid DNA instruments?

A: Only personnel who have completed agency-approved training are allowed to operate Rapid DNA instruments. This ensures proper handling, accurate results, and compliance with standards.

Q: How accurate are Rapid DNA results?

A: Rapid DNA instruments are highly accurate with results comparable to traditional lab methods. Success on blood and saliva methods samples may vary depending on instrument and sample quality.

Q: What happens if a searchable crime scene profile is obtained?

A: If a sample receives a green check mark, it typically takes about one hour for the Rapid Operator to receive an email containing the personal identifiable information of the offender involved in the Rapid DNA match.

Q: Can Rapid DNA systems connect to national databases like CODIS?

A: Yes, some Rapid DNA systems are designed to interface with national databases such as CODIS, but integration depends on agency policy, legal regulations, and system certification. At this time, MSHP rapid systems utilize a database called Smallpond and samples are not searched in CODIS.

Q: How is DNA data stored and protected?

A: DNA profiles and related data are stored in secure, encrypted systems with access limited to authorized users. Agencies follow strict data protection protocols to ensure privacy and compliance with legal standards.

Q: Are Rapid DNA instruments portable for field use?

A: Yes, many Rapid DNA instruments are compact and rugged enough for use in the field, at crime scenes, or in mobile units. This allows for faster identification and decision-making during investigations or mass disasters.

Do you have ideas for our next issue? If you have a question or topic you would like to see us cover in a future issue, let us know!

Send questions or feedback to:
Shelby.Massman@mshp.dps.mo.gov



FYI...

The new Jefferson City laboratory construction is on track for completion in November. The timeline for the move and the impact on submitting agencies are still being evaluated. Please be assured we are evaluating all options to minimize service disruptions and updates will be shared as soon as they become available. In the meantime, evidence submission and examinations continue at the current laboratory location.

To visit our website or contact us, scan here:



Traditional vs RAPID

Collection of two swabs either using a dual collection method or one at a time. (Swab A and Swab B.)

SWAB A - MSHP CRIME LAB DIVISION



WHERE DOES IT GO?

Evidence is submitted to the crime laboratory



HOW IS IT RUN?

Samples enter the laboratory backlog and go through traditional DNA processing, under the FBI Quality assurance standards



WHAT DOES IT SEARCH?

If a profile is produced, it can search against the CODIS national database of offenders and other crime scene samples.



HOW DO YOU GET RESULTS?

MSHP will issue a report of all testing and upload to LIMS+/Portal

SWAB B - FOR RAPID DNA USE



WHERE DOES IT GO?

Law Enforcement officers run the sample on the Rapid instrument located at MSHP facilities.



HOW IS IT RUN?

The sample is run on the Rapid instrument and is completed in 90 min.



WHAT DOES IT SEARCH?

If a profile is produced, it will search against a database of over 450K Missouri offenders



HOW DO YOU GET RESULTS?

MSHP will email you the results of the database search