



DALLAS COUNTY
Department of Health and Human Services
Laboratory Division

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To: DCHHS Laboratory Submitters
Date: June 10th, 2022
Subject: The Transportation of Clinical Human Specimens

The DCHHS Laboratory understands the challenges associated with meeting this updated Specimen Integrity and Stability requirement. In an effort to assist submitters in meeting these requirements, the Laboratory will have transport kits available for use by submitters and provide herein the following shipping instructions.

INNER PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

- Each container can hold no more than **0.5 kg (1.1 lbs)/ 0.5 L (17 oz)**.
- Each primary container (blood tube, urine cup, *etc.*) must be **leak proof** and made of **rigid material resistant to punctures**.
- Primary container must be securely closed.
- Each primary container must come sealed and, if possible, in its own secondary bag. Any requisition or supporting forms can be placed in the outer pouch.





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EXTERIOR PACKAGING

- Can hold no more than **4kg (8.8lbs)/ 4L (1 gallon)**.
- Styrofoam insulated box is ideal but can use coolers or courier transport insulated bags.
- Must adhere to storage conditions while in transport: If frozen, transport with dry ice; if cold, transport with ice packs, *i.e.*, 2°C to 8°C.
- Add as many ice packs as necessary to ensure the temperature maintains desired temperature during transport.
- Samples must be securely held place- bubble wrap can be used to secure samples in place.



- Exterior packaging must be closed and secure while in transport.
- While transport in private vehicle is allowed, individuals must adhere to:
 - Individuals must be adequately trained and made aware of potential hazards contained in packages (*e.g.*, Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness training).
 - A spill response plan should be in place in case of a spill during transport.
 - The vehicle must be for direct and exclusive transport of the sample to the destination, meaning:
 - No other cargo
 - No unnecessary stops permitted.

Thank you for working together to improve the specimen integrity of specimen submissions to the Dallas County Public Health Laboratory.