

Guidelines for the Transport of Research and Clinical Specimens

These guidelines are for the proper packaging of biohazardous research and clinical specimens for transport by investigators and research support staff within and between U of Chicago research facilities including the Medical Center at the University of Chicago. These guidelines are designed to prevent the exposure of staff, visitors and the environment to biohazardous agents (defined as potentially infectious agents or organisms, recombinant DNA and other genetically altered organisms and agents) during transport.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This protocol is **not** sufficient if the specimens are to be transported by a commercial carrier (e.g. FedEx) or transported in vehicles via public roads.

Transport within or between University of Chicago Research Facilities

- Research/clinical specimens must be double packaged when utilizing a corridor for transport
- Double packaging consists of a sealed, leak-proof primary container within a sealed, leak-proof secondary container (e.g. Tupperware container).
- For liquid materials, the secondary packaging must contain absorbent material in sufficient quantities to absorb the entire contents of all primary receptacles.
- The outside of the secondary container should be disinfected so that the use of personal protective equipment is not required.
- Label the secondary container with the universal biohazard sticker.
- Public areas and elevators should be avoided if at all possible. If public area/elevators must be used, gloves must NOT be worn. If necessary, the hand holding the specimen may be gloved, but under no circumstances should gloves be used on common surfaces such as elevator buttons, phones, door handles, etc.
- In the event of a spill, follow the University of Chicago “Infectious Agent Spill Response” protocol available at http://safety.uchicago.edu/1_4.html . For assistance, please contact University Safety at 2-9999.