

# NCSLPH Clinical Specimen Packaging Guide

## BAGGED SPECIMENS

Plastic vials are packaged in color-coded specimen bags.\* Ship cold on fully frozen ice packs.



Red:  
HIV/HCV Serology



Green:  
Syphilis Serology



Yellow:  
Hepatitis Serology



Orange:  
Chlamydia/  
Gonorrhea NAAT



Blue:  
Rubella,  
Special Serology

**BOLD = COLD**

## CANNED SPECIMENS

Glass vials and other fragile specimens must be shipped in crush-proof containers.

Enteric Clinical\*

Legionella Clinical

Microbiology Reference Cultures\*

Mycobacteriology Sputum\*

Mycology Clinical

Parasitology\*

**BOLD = COLD**

## BOXED SPECIMENS

Ship these separately in boxes.

Blood Lead\*

Bordetella\*

COVID-19\*

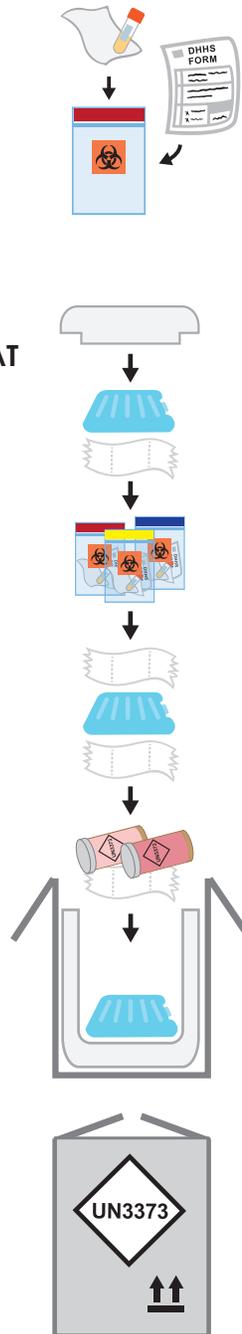
Gonorrhea (GC) Culture\*

Rabies

Viral Culture\*

**BOLD = COLD**

\* Supplies available through NCSLPH



Place each specimen and absorbent material in its own specimen bag, using the color code. Fold and slide completed form into pouch on back of bag.

Layer fully frozen ice pack(s) in bottom of cooler box.

Place paper towels between ice packs and specimens to absorb moisture.

Cold cans and bagged specimens can be mixed. Place final ice pack(s) on top.

Seal box with clear tape and apply UN3373 label, shipping label, and return address label to box.

Place in State Courier dropbox for pickup or ship by UPS (specific counties) within 24 hours of collection.

## HOW MANY ICE PACKS?

Ship bagged specimens with fully frozen NCSLPH ice packs.

Small box  
11.5"x9"x8"

Two packs are best, and required if >80°F or dropbox is in full sun.

Large box  
11.5"x9"x15"

Three packs are sufficient if <80°F. Four are required if >80°F or dropbox is in full sun.

## ONLY SENDING CANS?

Refer to our SCOPE on shipping requirements for specific specimens.

Spare specimen cans may be returned to NCSLPH in the shipping containers, without ice packs.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Clinical specimens listed here **must** be packaged as UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B.

Use our newly released NCSLPH submission forms **that include collection date and 24-hour time.**



NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
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