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
- Yellow: Hepatitis Serology
- Blue: Rubella, Special Serology

**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*

**BOXED SPECIMENS**

Ship these separately in boxes.

- Blood Lead*
- Bordetella*
- COVID-19*
- Gonorrhea (GC) Culture*
- Rabies
- Viral Culture*

* Supplies available through NCSLPH

**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.

**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.