NCSLPH Packaging & Shipping Guidance for DOA Medical Courier

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2026

Bagged Specimens: Specimen vials are packaged in color coded specimen bags.

- Red: **HIV/HCV Serology** *(Separate specimens required per test)*
- Green: **Syphilis Serology**
- Yellow: **Hepatitis Serology**
- Orange: **Chlamydia/ Gonorrhea NAAT**
- Blue: **Rubella, Special Serology**
- Clear: Blood Lead* **Bordetella*** **COVID-19*** Gonorrhea (GC) Culture* **Viral Culture***

Canned Specimens:

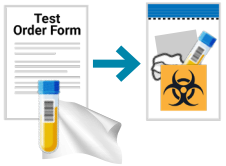
- **Fragile specimens must be shipped in crush proof containers (cans).**
- **Enteric Clinical***
- ***Legionella* Clinical**
- Microbiology Reference Cultures*
- **Mycology Clinical**
- **Mycobacteriology Sputum***
- **Parasitology***
- *Environmental Bacteriological Samples*

Boxed Specimens:

- Environmental boxes: no change in packaging
- **Rabies:** continue to ship using MSC state courier

Key **BOLD = COLD** ** Supplies available through NCSLPH*

Step 1:



- Place each barcoded specimen and absorbent material in its own color coded bag.
- Fold and slide completed requisition into pouch on bag.

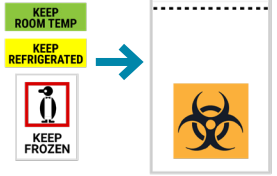
Step 2:



- Place same temperature specimens into the large courier bag.

Note: Multiple test orders may be placed in the same bag based on temperature storage requirements.

Step 3:



- Add the appropriate temperature label to the large courier bag.
- Store courier bags at appropriate temperature (frozen, cold or room temp) until courier pick up.

Step 4:



- Pay careful attention to the scheduled pickup time.
- Medical courier will pick up specimens from LHD contact person upon arrival.

All specimens must be ready at assigned pick up time.

Shipping Questions:

Refer to NCSLPH SCOPE Appendix A for shipping requirements.

Important Reminders:

- NCSLPH recommends specimens to be submitted through the Lab Web Portal (LWP): https://lwp-web.aimsplatform.com/nc/
- NCSLPH current forms may also be used: https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/forms.asp
- Specimens must be stored at the appropriate temperature until the courier arrives. Specimens must be ready at the scheduled pick-up time and hand-delivered to the courier representative.
- Rabies samples will continue to be sent through the MSC state courier.

Contact DOA Medical Courier: 984.236.7160

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health
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