Specimen Transportation

Leakproof containers are provided by the laboratory for collection and transport of specimens. Please be sure that containers with screw-on lids are tightened (avoid overtightening which can result in leakage).

Sharps or needles used for specimen collection must be removed before transport. For syringe specimens, replace the needle with a syringe-tip cap (supply item # 23479).

Place the primary collection container(s) (eg, tube, cup, swab, vial, etc.) in a clear plastic biobag (1 patient’s specimen per bag) and assure the Ziploc®-like closure is completely sealed. Place the request form in the outer pouch of the sealable bag.

Store biobag at the appropriate temperature until courier pickup.

After-Hour Pickups:
When the office or facility closes prior to courier arrival, a lockable, insulated drop box is provided. Please place specimen biobags in the drop box for late courier pickup.

Drop Box Instructions:
The drop box should be prepared as follows (temperature-dependent):

— When outdoor temperature is <50 °F:
Place an ambient temperature pack in the drop box next to the specimens to prevent freezing of specimens. This is especially important when extremely cold (sub-zero) temperatures are anticipated and more than an hour will elapse prior to pickup.

In extremely cold temperatures (20 °F or less), a heated pack should be added to the drop box for additional protection: Heat an “EZY WRAP” pack seam-side up in a microwave oven for approximately 30 seconds. Place this pack in the box above paper toweling above the specimens protected with room temperature packs.

— When outdoor temperature is >50 °F:
Place either a refrigerated coolant pack next to the specimen in the drop box, or alternatively, a frozen coolant pack may be used if several layers of paper towels are placed between coolant and specimens to prevent freezing.

• Call your local hospital laboratory to request a pickup.