

Shipping Diagnostic Stool Specimens to the DSHS Laboratory

Submitting Testable Specimens is Every Submitter's Responsibility

Ensure Specimen Labels Have at Least Two Identifiers

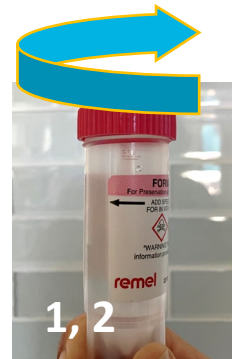
Three patient identifiers on label are preferred.



- 1 Snow, John
- 2 DOB: 03/15/2013
- 3 06161858

Three patient identifiers provided on this label

1. Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Medical Record Number



Specimens missing required patient identifiers will not be tested.

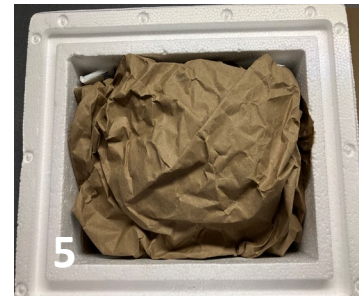
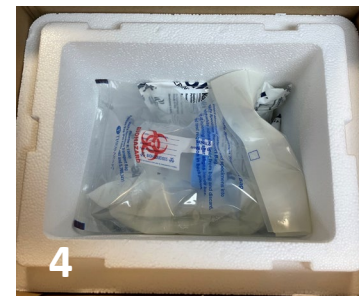
Stool Specimens Must Arrive Cold at Laboratory

Refrigerated stool specimens in transport media (such as Cary Blair) are required for diagnostic testing.

Specimens that arrive ambient may be unsuitable for testing.

- Many vehicles that transport specimens are not refrigerated.
- Even on a moderately hot Texas summer day (35°C/ 95°F), the temperature inside vehicles can reach 54°C/130 °F within 30 mins.

NOTE: *Vibrio* stool specimens MUST be kept at ambient temps.



Maximize Insulation and Minimize Specimen Movement

Ship specimens with enough cold packs to keep cold for up to 48 hrs. Cushion specimens in container to protect from accidental breakage.

1. **Close** specimen container lid tightly, making sure the cap is **threaded properly**.
2. **Seal** lid with wax wrap (such as Parafilm) to **prevent leaks**.
3. **Place** multiple (2 – 3) frozen cold packs in polystyrene cooler.
4. **Surround** specimen with cold packs.
 - **One cold pack is not enough!**
5. **Maximize** insulation and cushioning of specimens by packing **all** remaining empty space in cooler with absorbent material.
6. **Secure** cooler lid in place.

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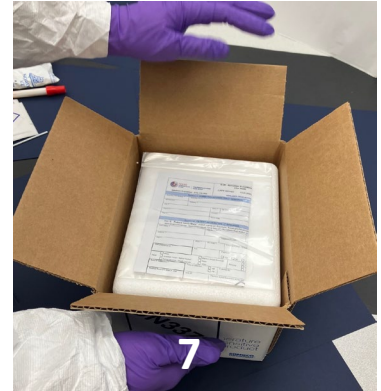
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Include a Completed Submission Form with Specimen

7. Place the submission form(s) in a sealable waterproof bag to protect them from leaks and place on inside of outer mailer.

Complete a submission form for every specimen in shipment.

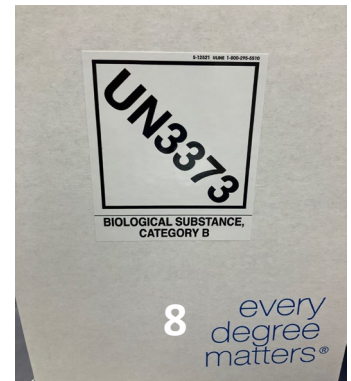
NEVER affix submission forms to an outer mailer! The forms contain patient health information.



Stool Is Shipped as a Hazardous Material

Specimens must be shipped to the Laboratory as Category B Biological Substances, UN3373.

8. Ensure outer mailer is appropriately labeled as **Category B, UN3373**.



Ship Stool Specimens Overnight to Laboratory

Ship **OVERNIGHT** to guarantee timely delivery of specimens.

Overnight Shipping Address: DSHS, Public Health Laboratory Division, 1100 W. 49th St. Austin, TX 78756-3199

Specimens accepted Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. only.
Do NOT ship for weekend or holiday delivery.

If specimen is collected on a Friday, weekend, or holiday, keep it refrigerated until the next available shipping date.



Questions?

Foodborne Surveillance Programs:

FoodborneTexas@dshs.texas.gov

Bacteriology Team:

(512) 458-7582 or (888) 963-7111 ext. 7582

General Shipping Supply Ordering:

(512) 776-7661 or ContainerPrepGroup@dshs.texas.gov,