

## USE OF REFRIGERATED SHIPPERS BY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



If an emergency (cases of possible smallpox cases-(variola virus); cases of anthrax human clinical specimens), then contact the state epidemiology department 971-673-1111 and state public health laboratory 503-693-4100.

### What, when, how to collect specimens?

For smallpox specimens see CDC web site: Specimen collection

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/vaccination/vaccinia-specimen-collection.asp>

Guide D-detailed specimen collection and transport guidelines

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/response-plan/files/guide-d.pdf>

### How to send specimens.

Place specimen into leak-proof primary specimen container and seal screw-top containers with tape.

Primary container is: blood tube, sterile urine/sputum screw-topped container, etc.

Place patient name on outside of primary specimen container.

Clean outside of primary specimen container with dilute bleach.

Place primary container into biohazard bag and then into the thick-plastic, orange-lid, screw-topped secondary container.

If primary container contains liquid, the biohazard bag should contain the thin absorbent material.

Do NOT place any ice (especially dry ice) into secondary thick-plastic, orange-lid, container.

Ice packs go into styrofoam-lined-shipper box to keep specimen temperature at freezing, (or dry ice if specimen needs to remain frozen for over a day)

### Complete forms

Viral request form for possible smallpox (bacterial request form for possible anthrax in clinical human specimens).

Shippers' Declaration form (for possible smallpox).

(call state public health lab for directions: 503-693-4100 or 503-693-4123)

### Transport the specimens

To: Oregon State Public Health Laboratory  
3150 NW 229<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Hillsboro, OR 97124  
Phone: 503-693-4100

### LIST OF CONTENTS:

1. Biohazard bag (place around primary specimen)
2. Absorbent material (thin piece of paper) to be placed between primary specimen and secondary plastic container -will absorb liquid contents if primary container accidentally opens
3. Infectious label to be placed on outside of outer cardboard box
4. OSPHL Viral laboratory request form
5. Shippers' declaration form-
6. Contact the state public health lab for directions: 503-693-4100, 503-693-4123

### NOT PROVIDED

1. Primary containers (blood tube, sterile urine/sputum screw-topped container)
2. Ice packs or dry ice for possible smallpox (variola virus)