

Best Practice Reminder - Warm Weather Shipment of Specimens

Greetings!

We hope this letter finds you well. We would like to share a friendly reminder that the warm weather months have arrived, which also means warmer shipping conditions for your samples.

The warm weather can cause an increase in leaking samples and cracking containers. Beyond the potential biohazard safety issues, this can also lead to possible test cancellations due to insufficient sample for your requested testing. In an effort to minimize these occurrences, please keep the below tips in mind when preparing your samples for transport:

- ✓ Do not overfill sample tubes/containers. Allow room for the gases to build up and expand especially when sending gastric fluid.
 - ✓ Assure that specimen tube tops or container lids are securely sealed/fastened.
 - ✓ Use parafilm to seal containers. Specifically applicable with tissues and gastric fluids that are more prone to expansion in warm conditions.
 - ✓ Individually seal your specimens so in the event of leakage, they do not cross-contaminate other samples.
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Below are some general packaging guidelines from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for the shipment of biological substances for your reference:

Transport Packaging for IATA UN 3373 – Biological Substances

Any packaging for biological substances must include three components:

- A primary receptacle: the tube, vial or other container typically made of glass or rigid plastic (including the stopper, cap or other closure elements) that is in direct contact with the specimen.
- A secondary packaging (including cushioning and other materials) that fully encapsulates the primary receptacle.
- An outer packaging for shipping or transit.

Thank you for helping to ensure that your specimens arrive safely at NMS Labs for testing. If you have any concerns regarding the shipment of your packages please contact our Client Support team at 1-800-522-6671.

~NMS Labs Specimen Processing Department