**General Guidelines for Shipping Pathology Specimens**

**Infectious Diseases Pathology Branch**

### Packaging Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Temperature</th>
<th>Refrigerated (frozen gel packs)</th>
<th>Frozen (dry ice) §</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Formalin-fixed wet tissues&lt;br&gt; • Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded blocks *&lt;br&gt; • Glass slides with sections from paraffin-embedded blocks&lt;br&gt; • Glass slides with smears&lt;br&gt; • EM blocks / EM grids</td>
<td>• Fresh tissue&lt;br&gt; • Blood&lt;br&gt; • Wet tissue in EM fixative&lt;br&gt; • Stool for EM</td>
<td>• Fresh frozen tissue&lt;br&gt; • Serum&lt;br&gt; • Body fluids (BAL, CSF, urine)</td>
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</table>

* During the warmer months (June – August), it is advisable to ship the block(s) with a frozen gel ice-pack in order to prevent the melting of paraffin-embedded tissue blocks during transit.

§ When shipping frozen specimens from long distances or from international locations, it is best to use a combination of dry ice and frozen gel ice-packs. The gel ice-packs will remain frozen for a day or two after the dry ice has dissipated.

### Shipping Guidelines

• All packages should be mailed for receipt by Friday.
• US Federal Holidays should be taken into consideration before mailing specimens.
• Exceptions can be made for urgent cases with prior approval.
• Please provide us the shipper’s package tracking number(s).
• Specific regulations for packaging, labeling, and shipping may be found at:
  - http://www.cdc.gov/biosafety

### Supporting Documentation

• Please include
  1. a cover letter outlining a brief clinical history, including relevant demographic / epidemiologic information
  2. a completed CDC Form 50.34
  3. a copy of (a) the autopsy report (preliminary or final) or (b) surgical pathology report
  4. copies of pertinent laboratory results (microbiology, hematology, serology, culture, and/or biochemical)
  5. images (clinical and/or gross autopsy photos)
• Include the full name, title, complete mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers of the submitter. This will be the person to whom the final pathology report is addressed.

**Advance consultation is REQUIRED concerning the submission of all cases.**

All specimens should be addressed to:

Infectious Diseases Pathology Branch (IDPB)<br>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)<br>1600 Clifton Rd NE, MS G-32<br>Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Phone: (404) 639-3133<br>Fax: (404) 639-3043<br>pathology@cdc.gov

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