Transporting Biological Materials

Please note that this information only applies to on campus hand or cart transportation of biological materials between buildings or between laboratories within the same building on campus. If you need to transport biological materials on public roads, you must comply with US Department of Transportation regulations. Laboratory personnel must properly package, transport, and handle any infectious substances which are used in their research. Proper labeling using the universal biohazard symbol and lab identification information is also required.

Transport between University labs or buildings through public areas

Accidents during transportation can potentially result in release of biological materials and cause serious harm. Infectious substances must be transported or moved between laboratories in way as to prevent spills and accidental exposure or release including:

• Biological material must be in a closed leak-proof labeled primary container (e.g., conical tubes, culture flasks) secured with a screw cap. If the biological material cannot be transferred in leak-proof screw-cap tubes use parafilm to ensure primary- containment is obtained.
• Transporting biological materials in the same building between labs should be performed in a secondary tray and on a cart.
• Transporting biological materials between buildings the primary container must be placed in a leak-proof secondary container sturdy enough to remain closed if dropped.
• Spray secondary container with 70% ethanol.
• When transporting biological materials always take care when moving through public spaces.
• Do not wear gloves in public access areas.

Examples of suitable secondary containers: