Transporting Biological Materials

This guideline applies to transport of biological materials between buildings, or between laboratories within the same building on campus. Accidents during transportation can potentially result in release of biological materials and cause serious harm.

- 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 secondary container sturdy enough to be remained 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: