

Transporting samples to the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory at Coopers Plains

Guidelines for transporting and submitting samples

The following guidelines should be followed when transporting and submitting samples to the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory at Coopers Plains:

1. Register an account with a courier company if you're planning to use this method of transport as this process may take a couple of days.
2. Consult the laboratory's website (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/sample-testing/transporting>) for information on submitting samples to the laboratory.
3. Download a copy of the Veterinary Laboratory Users Guide for advice on submitting samples (<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/veterinary-laboratory/resource/56026801-3046-4182-b645-46965924f35d>).
4. Complete a [Specimen Advice Sheet](#) to accompany the samples.
5. Consider if your samples are urgent and if so, please call the laboratory in advance directly on 07 3708 8762 or via the Call Centre on 13 25 23.
6. Do not send samples to arrive at the laboratory on the weekend or public holidays, unless prior arrangements with the laboratory have been made.
7. For details on packaging and transport, visit the Australian Government Department of Health and Aging website and refer to Requirements for the Packaging and Transport of Pathology Specimens and Associated Materials at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/requirements-packaging-and-transport-pathology-specimens-and-associated-materials-fourth-edition-2013>.

Requirements for transport

- Complete the required forms.
- Use sealed plastic bags to protect forms from water damage.
- Do not use glass bottles or poor quality plastic containers.
- Package samples to prevent leakage in transit.
- Package samples to contain and absorb any leakage that could happen.
- Pack perishable samples in insulated containers with ice or freezer bricks.
- Insulated containers with freezer bricks should reach the laboratory within 18 hours.
- Do not pack blood samples in direct contact with freezer bricks.
- Do not refrigerate or chill blood smears, live ticks, fly larvae or faeces for larval culture.
- Use a sealed container to protect blood smears from water or 10% formalin.
- Notify the laboratory of dispatch of urgent or important specimens.

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Forms to accompany samples

A [Specimen Advice Sheet](#) must be fully completed and submitted alongside any samples sent to the laboratories. It is vital that all relevant details accompany specimens so that they can be efficiently handled. Use a separate form for each different species of animal in a submission and each different reason for testing. Always give the number in the affected group and their age. An estimate is better than no information and allows the laboratory to gauge the importance of the incident. Ensure the PIC number and vaccination status are included.

The following forms are available on the Biosecurity Queensland website:

[Specimen Advice Sheet \(Form A\)](#): To be sent with all specimen submissions for diagnosis of disease, for testing for export, show, sale, movement or accreditation, for health testing and for experimental work.

[Necropsy Findings \(Form B\)](#): To be attached to Form A for recording necropsy findings.

Packaging

The sender of specimens is responsible for the cost of transport. Specimens must be properly packaged to prevent leakage during transport and to maintain their usefulness for laboratory testing.

There are packaging requirements that must be met to transport biological samples by road, rail or air. Requirements apply to all samples sent by private veterinary practitioners to a laboratory. Visit the Australian Government Department of Health and Aging website and refer to Requirements for the Packaging and Transport of Pathology Specimens and Associated Materials at www.health.gov.au

A video providing further information on packaging samples to be sent to the laboratory can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8qvo5Zxxf0>.

Place the accompanying documents in a sealed plastic bag before including them in the package. Address the package to *Specimen Receipt* at the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory.

Delivery address

Specimen Receipt (Loading Dock 12)
Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory
39 Kessels Road
Coopers Plains Qld 4108

Using Queensland Government rates

Queensland Government rates are available through Team Global Express and StarTrack. Contact the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory at Coopers Plains for further information.

More information

Phone: 07 3708 8762

Email: bslcllo@dpi.qld.gov.au

Customer Service Centre: 13 25 23

Website: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity/lab>

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