



# EAD Sample Transport Subsidy

## Information for veterinarians

The prompt detection and early response to exotic and emergency animal diseases (EADs) is critically important to protect animal health and ultimately the sustainability of animal industries in Queensland and Australia.

The DPI fully subsidises the cost of laboratory testing for submissions meeting the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory (BSL) [specimen receipt policy](#), however we acknowledge that on occasion the costs associated with sample transport to BSL may be significant. In recognition of the potential for this cost to be a limiting factor in the submission of EAD exclusions, the DPI is piloting a sample transport subsidy.

The sample transport subsidy pilot focuses on current priority EADs of:

- foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)
- lumpy skin disease (LSD)
- African swine fever (ASF)
- high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)

This pilot has been designed for busy mixed and large animal private practices throughout Queensland to provide administrative and financial support for the logistics of sending samples to the BSL in Coopers Plains, Brisbane.

### Duration

The sample transport subsidy pilot will begin on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and run for up to 6 months.

### Eligibility criteria

#### Reason for testing

Laboratory submissions that are eligible for the sample transport subsidy are disease investigations where the presenting clinical signs are consistent with those of either FMD, LSD, ASF or HPAI; namely:

- oral/hoof/teat lesions, salivation and/or lameness in ruminants & pigs, for FMD
- skin lesions in cattle, for LSD
- sudden death and/or high fever (with anorexia and depression) in pigs, for ASF
- sudden death and/or respiratory or neurological signs in domestic poultry, for HPAI

### Samples

Eligible submissions must include appropriate specimens from one or more animals to undertake exclusion testing by PCR; specifically:

- unpreserved tissue(s) or swab(s) from skin lesion, for LSD
- unpreserved vesicle fluid/epithelium/saliva, or oral/nasal/tonsillar swab(s), for FMD
- oral/nasal/tonsillar swab(s) or unpreserved tonsil/spleen/lung/kidney/lymph node, for ASF
- oropharyngeal and/or cloacal swab(s), for HPAI

In addition to the above minimum specimens required for EAD exclusion, we encourage you to send appropriate specimens from affected animals for wider diagnostic testing (except for backyard poultry – see ‘poultry submissions’).

Please call the BSL on 3708 8762 (business hours) or the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888 for further advice on sample collection.


### Poultry submissions

The following types of *owned* domestic poultry, including commercial, hobby farm and backyard poultry, are eligible:

- chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, pheasants, partridge, quail, guinea fowl, pea fowl, pigeons and doves



**Queensland**  
Government



However, testing of hobby farm/backyard poultry flocks will be limited to HPAI exclusion only, with a wider range of diagnostic testing not being undertaken.

For information on HPAI exclusion in *wild* birds see [Avian influenza in wild birds – Information for veterinarians](#).

## Submission process

### Confirm eligibility

Veterinarians are required to self-assess each submission against the eligibility criteria using the checklist provided in the [Sample Transport Eligibility Supplement form](#). Please print a copy of this form, complete the checklist and ensure you sign and date to acknowledge the submission is eligible.

Normal [guidelines for submitting samples](#) to the BSL, including completion of a [specimen advice sheet](#) (SAS) apply.

### Packaging

Parcels will be consigned as 'Biological Substances Category B' (UN 3373) and must be packed according to [IATA packing instruction 650](#).

Follow the below instructions when packaging specimens:

- clearly label all specimens with animal ID (sequentially from 1) and anatomical location
- to prevent leakage and cross contamination and to maintain integrity of specimens for testing:
  - unpreserved tissue specimens should be placed in separate screw top containers
  - do not send specimens in glass bottles, poorly sealed plastic containers, syringes or gloves
  - swabs/vials/containers should be packed inside a sealed zip lock bag
  - package specimens in a sturdy insulated container/cooler
  - crumpled newspaper or similar absorbent material should be placed in the cooler with samples to provide insulation and absorb any liquid

- send specimens chilled, not frozen, and include sufficient ice bricks to allow for up to 2 days transit time
- a fully completed SAS and sample transport eligibility supplement form must accompany each submission (place in a separate zip lock bag)

Please weigh & measure your parcel, ensuring it is no greater than 20kg (cubic or actual) in weight. Record this information for entering in the online form (see 'request pick-up').

### Request pick-up

To lodge a request for collection of eligible submissions, please go to [Priority EAD Transport Subsidy Pilot - Courier Details](#) online form and provide details of the consignment, e.g. sender name, pick-up address and parcel dimensions.

Once you have submitted this form, an email will be automatically generated and sent to the BSL alerting them to your request for parcel pick-up.

For highly suspect clinical cases, please call the BSL on 3708 8762 for advice on priority transport and/or testing.

### Consignment booking

Booking of the consignment will be managed by staff at the BSL, with the following cut-off times applicable to same or next business day bookings:

- Pick-up requests submitted prior to 9am (working days) will be consigned that morning, allowing for possible same day pick-up for locations offering afternoon collection
- Requests submitted 9am – 3pm (working days) will have consignments booked by COB, allowing for next business day collection
- Requests lodged after 3pm on Fridays or on non-working days will be processed the morning of the next working day

Parcels will be consigned with commercial couriers for which the BSL has existing accounts and relationships. In most cases this will be Team Global Express (TGE). TGE usually offers an overnight delivery service to Coopers Plains,



**Queensland  
Government**



however delivery timeframes cannot be guaranteed<sup>1</sup>.

The BSL does not recommend biological specimens be transported over the weekend and will therefore not consign parcels for collection on Fridays or days preceding a public holiday.

## Parcel collection

A consignment booking confirmation email will be forwarded to the submitter once BSL has completed the booking. Attached to the email will be a copy of the consignment note and manifest; both forms will need to be printed.

Please attach the consignment note securely to your package and have the manifest signed with the package ready for collection at the pick-up address on the nominated day and time.

## Exclusions

Submissions that are being sent to the BSL under another paid program, such as NABSNet or NTSESP, are not eligible for this sample transport subsidy pilot.

The actual weight and cubic weight (dimensional size) of parcels accepted as part of this pilot is limited to 20kg. Please weigh and measure your parcels accurately to ensure they comply with this limit. Charges incurred for parcels exceeding this limit will be charged back to the submitter.

Only specimens pertaining to one or more eligible submission may be sent in the parcel. Inclusion of non-eligible submissions, including those sent in the same parcel as eligible submissions, will result in the submitter being invoiced for the courier fee.

## Evaluation

All consignments booked under the sample transport subsidy pilot will be subsequently assessed for eligibility on receipt at BSL. Should there be any issues with the submission all attempts will be made to follow up with the submitter to resolve. However, should the submission be deemed ineligible the submitter will be issued with an invoice for the courier costs incurred.

Following completion of the pilot, DPI will undertake an evaluation to inform decisions as to the merit, cost-benefit and potential future application of a sample transport subsidy. This evaluation will include conducting a survey to gather feedback from veterinary practices. Ad hoc feedback received throughout the pilot is also encouraged.

---

<sup>1</sup> The DPI will make every effort to facilitate timely collection and delivery of parcels, however courier companies are commercial enterprises outside of the control of the government.

