

COVID-19 Specimens Packaging and Shipping

Intermountain strives to deliver the best care possible to each patient. This requires the specimen to arrive undamaged and uncontaminated for accurate results.

How Should a COVID-19 Specimen Be Packaged?

- **Verify specimens** are properly labeled and patient information matches.
- Ensure the **specimen container is tightened securely** and is not cross-threaded prior to batching/shipping.
- Place **one COVID-19 specimen per specimen bag** (typically 8X6 bag) and **seal** the bag.
- Place the patient requisition and any **paperwork in the outside pocket** of the specimen bag.
- For **multiple patient specimen bags**, place in a **larger transport bag**.



Specimen Bag



Transport Bag

Keep Caregivers Safe



Don't tag extra labels on a requisition. When the sticker is removed for scanning, it tears the requisition or ruins the batch of requisitions.



Don't send one patient specimen in a specimen bag and transport bag, unless it's the only specimen.

Don't use parafilm on a COVID-19 specimen. This makes it difficult to open and increases exposure risk.



Don't send half-page requisitions. These can't be scanned and will have to be reprinted.

Don't send COVID samples through the pneumatic tube system. Samples should be hand-delivered.