

# **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR SHIPPING SPECIMENS:**

**When shipping packages by air, please make sure to follow the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulation. Not following these regulations can lead to fines and penalties.**

1. Send specimens for virus isolation to the laboratory by the most expeditious means possible. It is important to keep the interval between collection of specimens and arrival in the laboratory as short as possible. Good isolation results are dependent upon the viability of the organism in the submitted specimen.
2. Notify the laboratory regarding unusual specimens so that appropriate arrangements may be made for any special handling.
3. Follow these shipping instructions. Federal regulations require that specimens be properly prepared and packaged before they are shipped. Overnight carriers and postal regulations require specimen packaging to include the following:
  - a. a watertight primary receptacle.
  - b. a watertight secondary packaging.
  - c. an absorbent material capable of absorbing all the fluid in the specimen, placed between the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging.
  - d. a sturdy outside packaging constructed of corrugated fiberboard, wood, metal or plastic.
4. Provide identification of the primate species being tested as well as pertinent information regarding the reasons for the testing (e.g. clinical symptoms if a sick animal is being tested). This helps us to assure appropriate testing is being performed. Monkey species or viruses differ in their cell culture requirements for virus isolation.
5. Identify all specimens to avoid specimen confusion.
6. Be sure that appropriate swabs and transport media are used for collecting and shipping specimens. Dacron swabs with plastic shafts are preferred
7. Insure that specimens are in appropriate containers to avoid leakage and breakage.