Transporting Biohazardous Materials SOP

Transporting Cell Cultures, 
Research/Clinical Specimens or Biohazardous Materials

When moving biohazardous materials from one lab to another:

- Transport in a sealed, leak-proof primary container within a sealed, leak-proof secondary container (e.g. Tupperware or other snap-lid container) lined with absorbent matting. The secondary container shall be identified with the universal biohazard symbol.

- Disinfect the outside of the secondary container so gloves are not necessary when handling the container. Refer to the Lab Disinfectants SOP to select the appropriate disinfectant.

- Remove all PPE before leaving the lab.

- Avoid public areas and elevators if possible when moving biohazardous materials. If public areas or elevators must be used, gloves must not be worn. Under no circumstances are gloves to be used on common surfaces such as computer keyboards, door knobs or elevator buttons.

- Even though a spill is unlikely when secondary containment is used, URI Public Safety Dispatch (401-874-2121) must be notified immediately if there is a release of biohazardous materials during transport. A first responder from EHS will be dispatched to help with clean-up and decontamination.