

BIOSAFETY
APPENDIX F
TRANSPORTING
BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIALS
SOP

MAY, 2024

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 similar snap-lid container) lined with absorbent matting. Identify the secondary container with the universal biohazard symbol.
- Disinfect the outside of the secondary container so you don't need to wear gloves when handling the container. Use 70% Ethanol or an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant to wipe down the exterior of the container.
- **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 and lab coats 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 you are using secondary containment, call 911 to notify URI Police Dispatch immediately if there is a release of biohazardous materials during transport. Dispatch will contact EHS and a first responder will be dispatched to help with clean-up and decontamination if the spill is in a public area.