



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES

RICHARD STEECE, PHD, D(ABMM)
LABORATORY DIRECTOR

JOHN J. DREYZEHNER, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER

October 10, 2014

Hello Colleagues,

In light of recent news events the TN Department of Health Division of Laboratory Services (TDHLS) and the TN Department of Communicable and Environmental Diseases and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP) have collaborated to answer some questions that have surfaced regarding the shipment of suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD).

- To date there are still no documented cases of EVD in Tennessee.
- All requests for laboratory testing for EVD must obtain **prior approval for testing from:**
Epidemiology at: (615) 741-7247; after- hours (800) 404-3006
- Upon receipt of approval of testing samples for EVD, shipments must be sent to TDHLS for in-processing prior to confirmation of further shipment from the CDC.
 - Collection requirement for EVD testing: **2 - EDTA (lavender top) plastic tubes** shipped at **2-8°C** (cold packs). **Do not submit samples collected in SPS, citrate, or clot activator tubes due to PCR reagent kit requirements.**

In accordance with IATA (International Air Transportation Association) and USDOT (United States Department of Transportation), all infectious substances must be shipped as Category A or Category B - 6.2 Classification. Critical judgment is essential in determination of the proper shipping category. TDHLS recommends utilization of Category A shipping guidelines when shipping samples suspected of EVD infection.

- Regardless of mode of transportation (even couriers) all designated 6.2 infectious agents must be packaged in accordance with U.S. Dept. of Transportation's (DOT's) Hazardous materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR parts 171-180)
- No personnel is authorized to determine 6.2 classification or package and ship category A or B infectious substances without current training certification as mandated by USDOT, IATA, and USPS (see enclosure 1).
- Shipping containers used for Category A and/or Category B shipments must be certified and conform to USDOT and IATA standards (see enclosure 2).

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- **It is recommended to notify** the receiving facility (TDHDLs) that a shipment is en route from your facility via email or telephone that relays the carrier and tracking number.

The shipper is responsible for maintaining supplies of 6.2 certified shipping containers, proper packaging, and proper shipping. Certified 6.2 shipping containers may be obtained from various vendors. Please review the attached list which is not all inclusive, but may assist you in obtaining adequate packaging and shipping supplies (see enclosure 3).

We hope this information sheet is helpful in regards to packaging and shipping needs for your laboratory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Richard Steece, Ph.D.".

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