TRANSPORTING BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

This guideline applies to transport of biological materials between buildings, or between laboratories within the same building on campus. Accidents during transportation can potentially result in release of biological materials and cause serious harm.

*If transporting biohazardous material by motorized vehicles the Biosafety Office encourages the use of university-owned vehicles. For transporting rodents university-owned vehicles must be used; the use of personal vehicles must be first approved by the Attending Veterinarian.

Transporting Biological Materials

- Biological material must be in a closed leak-proof labeled primary container (e.g., specimen cups, conical tubes) secured with a screw-cap. If biological material cannot be transferred in leak-proof screw-cap tubes use parafilm to ensure primary-containment is obtained.
- Transporting biological materials in the same building between labs should be performed in a secondary tray (e.g., autoclave tray) and on a cart.
- Transporting biological materials between buildings the primary container must be placed in a secondary container sturdy enough to be remained closed if dropped.
- Spray secondary container with appropriate disinfectant.
- When transporting biological materials always take care when moving through public spaces.
- Do not wear gloves in public access areas.

Examples of suitable secondary containers:

In the same building between labs       Between buildings

![Secondary container images]
Transporting Rodents

- Transport rodents in ARC approved cages with microisolator tops.
- Transporting rodents on campus between buildings should be transported on a cart or transported in a secondary container sturdy enough to be remained closed if dropped.
- Spray with appropriate disinfectant.
- If transporting rodents in a motorized vehicle a secondary container is required.

Examples of rodent transport:

- Return cages used in BSL1 experiments to room 123 in the ARC.
- Return cages used in BSL2 experiments to the dirty dock in the ARC in clear biohazard bags with the appropriate information (PI, date, infectious agent) to be autoclaved. Transport biohazard bags in a secondary container to ARC.
- Spray with appropriate disinfectant prior to removal from lab.

Example of how to return cages to ARC:

BSL1 experimental cages                      BSL2 experimental cages