

Material Transport of Biologicals

This SOP applies to transportation of biohazardous or biological materials through public areas by UMass Amherst personnel. Transporting biohazardous or biological materials through public areas increases the potential for loss of containment and places the group of individuals at risk for exposure. To mitigate risk, a primary container of biohazardous materials must be transported in a secondary container, which provides an additional layer of protection from spills or exposure and maintains separation between agents and public spaces. The secondary container must never be left unattended.

Procedure:

1. Enclose the biological material for transport within the primary container
2. Place the primary container and absorbent materials into the secondary container and securely close the lid.
3. Disinfect the exterior of the secondary container following the instructions in the Disinfection SOP
4. Remove PPE and dispose as biohazardous waste
5. Transport the contained materials by foot to the destination
6. Don PPE at the destination
7. Retrieve sample from the secondary container
8. Decontaminate interior of secondary container for future use

Cautions & Considerations

- Label the secondary container with emergency contact information
- PPE must never be worn in public areas
- Individuals transporting biohazards in a personal vehicle must complete Shipping Biological Materials Training and comply with DOT regulations
- Biological materials are not permitted on public transportation (e.g., campus busses)
- Contact EH&S Biosafety immediately at 413-545-2682 if biohazardous materials are spilled in public areas

Resources

- [Biosafety Manual](#)
- [BMBL 5th Edition](#)