

Specimen Packaging and Courier Services

Courier Services

Courier services are available and responsible for packaging up and transporting specimens to TidalHealth entities. This service provides daily delivery of specimens (including frozen) under controlled conditions. Our couriers carry containers for ambient, refrigerated, and frozen specimens; the offices or satellites do not have them.

Specimens which are being sent for testing at Mayo Medical Laboratories, our reference laboratory, must be received in PRMC Main Laboratory by 1400 Monday through Friday and by 1000 on Saturday.

Courier service times are scheduled by the Manager of Laboratory Outreach Sales and Service, call 410-543-7396 if you need to discuss courier services or pick-up times.

Ambient Specimens

Our standard mailing containers are designed to transport serum and urine specimens that do not require special temperatures or handling. Place the specimen container and accompanying request in a tightly sealing plastic bag. If you have any concerns regarding the effect of extreme weather conditions on routine or refrigerated specimens, please call our administrative personnel.

Frozen Specimens

TidalHealth couriers use a special pouch for transporting frozen specimens. They are called **ConstanTemp Pouch Specimen Totes**. Salisbury's are blue and Nanticoke's are green. Keep frozen specimens in the freezer until courier arrives and they will put the frozen specimen in the ConstanTemp Pouch for transport.

Refrigerated (On Coolant) Specimens

Place specimen and accompanying request in a tightly sealing plastic bag. Place tightly sealed plastic bag on top of an **ice pack** in the TidalHealth lockbox. Care should be taken to buffer ice pack from specimens, i.e., use a paper towel between ice pack and sealed plastic bag(s) of specimens.

Note: OSHA requires that all shipments containing clinical specimens be marked with a "Biohazard Label." Bags and labels for shipments sent to TidalHealth Peninsula Regional will be provided. Large bags do not have a biohazard label but the cooler do.