COVID-19 Specimen Packaging Guidance

*Effective March 16, per CDC guidance, clinics should collect one NP swab to test for the presence of SARS-CoV2 (the agent of COVID-19). Collection of OP swabs is no longer advised.

Kit Contents:
- 2 biohazard bags
- 1 synthetic-tipped nasopharyngeal swab*
- 1 viral transport medium tube
- 1 absorbent pad
- 1 Test Request Form printed from: www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml

Sample Packaging:
1) Place the nasopharyngeal swab into the viral transport medium tube.
   Make sure that cap is sealed tight.
2) Place the tube and absorbent pad into the first biohazard bag.
3) Label the second biohazard bag with:
   - Your facility name
   - COVID-19
4) Place the first biohazard bag inside the second.
5) Place the Test Request Form in the outside sleeve.
   DO NOT STAPLE TO THE BAG.
6) The facility will place the double-bagged specimen in the courier driver’s cooler upon arrival.
   The facility DOES NOT need to package the sample in a hard-sided container or box.

Sample Delivery:
- **CDS Courier**: Go to [http://www.cdsofiowa.com](http://www.cdsofiowa.com) to arrange courier pick-up through Central Delivery Service of Iowa. Pickup requests should be entered by 11:00 AM. **Samples must be prepared prior to CDS arrival.**
- **Shipping**: Ship overnight via UPS or FedEx following Category B shipping requirements.
- **Hand-delivery**: Bring to the State Hygienic Laboratory Sample Drop-Off window during business hours (refer to [www.shl.uiowa.edu](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu)).