

April 13, 2016

To our clients,

Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) is committed to ensuring specimens received from your locations by PHOL contracted couriers are transported to PHOL testing sites under appropriate conditions to meet testing requirements.

PHOL transports specimens according to a planned and monitored system of courier runs to minimize specimen transit time. All specimens received at PHOL locations are reviewed according to specific criteria for the acceptance of specimens.

PHOL has performed an evaluation of the transport bag system using the blue PHOL transport bags. The evaluation simulated each of the following conditions:

- For winter conditions and summer conditions, where the transport bag would be transported in the cargo area of a transport truck or airplane
- For winter and summer conditions, where the transport bag would be transported in an air-conditioned PHOL courier vehicle

Following the monitoring time, internal temperatures of the transport bags containing specimens were found to be within acceptable temperature ranges.

PHOL clients using the PHOL transport bags with the PHOL courier system for specimens should refer to specific test information sheets at www.publichealthontario.ca/test_directory under 'Specimen Handling' for further packing instructions, e.g. use of icepacks.

Bi-monthly temperature monitoring is also conducted to verify that the PHOL transport bags are capable of maintaining the temperature of the specimens within acceptable limits during transport to the testing locations.

Please contact me if you require further information.



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