

# IDOHL Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Transport Guide



Please use the following chart to determine the recommended storage temperature, packaging conditions and transportation options for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 specimens submitted for testing at the IDOH Laboratory. Note that state holidays will affect this timeline.

The chart below is for scheduled courier pickup days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Collection Day/Time	Storage Temperature	Maximum Transit Time (Time elapsed from collection to arrival at IDOHL)	Transport Service	Transport Requirements	Transport Guidance for IDOHL Testing
Mon-Tues-Weds-Thurs	Cold	72 hours	Private Courier (Not STAT Courier)	Sent using shipping service (i.e., FedEx) for overnight delivery. Packaged in an insulated shipper with frozen ice packs and a layer of padding between ice packs and VTM tubes.	Acceptable
Friday		72 hours	Private Courier (Not STAT Courier)	<b>SPECIMEN(S) NOT RECEIVED BY IDOHL BY 3 P.M. ON FRIDAY MUST HAVE SPECIAL APPROVAL.</b>	
Mon-Tues-Weds-Thurs	Cold – Route Refrigerated	72 hours	STAT Courier	Transported by STAT Courier in “Route Refrigerated” conditions.	Acceptable
Friday a.m. <i>*Collected prior to STAT Courier arrival</i>	Refrigerated – Lab Freezer	72 hours	STAT Courier	Transported by STAT Courier in “Route Refrigerated – Lab Freezer” conditions. Package will be frozen at IDOHL upon delivery before 10 p.m. the same day.	Acceptable
Friday p.m. <i>*Collected after STAT Courier completed pickup</i>	Refrigerated – Lab Freezer	72 hours	STAT Courier	Transported by STAT Courier in “Route Refrigerated – Lab Freezer” conditions on Monday. Package will be frozen at IDOHL upon delivery before 10 p.m. on Monday.	Acceptable
Friday p.m. before a 3-day weekend <i>*i.e., Labor Day, Memorial Day, etc.</i>		72 hours		<b>DO NOT COLLECT – SPECIMEN WILL NO LONGER BE VIABLE WHEN PROCESSED BY IDOHL WITHOUT SPECIAL PREARRANGED ACCOMODATIONS. THIS APPLIES TO BOTH STAT COURIER &amp; ALL OTHER SHIPPING SERVICES.</b>	

\*Packages transported in “Route Refrigerated-Lab Freezer” conditions do NOT require special packaging. Please package specimen(s) in a biohazard bag with appropriate labeling and paperwork.