

SPECIMEN PACKAGING & COURIER SERVICE

Ambient Specimens

Our standard Biohazard zip-lock bags are designed to transport serum and urine specimens. Place the test requisition in the OUTSIDE POCKET, so it is not contaminated by leakage from the specimens contained in the zip-lock portion of the bag.

Frozen Specimens

Use only plastic (not glass) vials. Send each frozen specimen in a vial not more than 3/4 full. Securely attach the patient identification label to each vial with transparent tape. Specimens should be placed in a Biohazard zip-lock plastic bag and frozen solid before courier pick-up. Place the test requisition in the OUTSIDE POCKET, so it is not contaminated by leakage from the specimens contained in the zip-lock portion of the bag.

Refrigerated Specimens

Place the specimen in a Biohazard zip-lock plastic bag, and keep refrigerated until courier pickup. Place the test requisition in the OUTSIDE POCKET, so it is not contaminated by leakage from the specimens contained in the zip-lock portion of the bag.

Infectious Specimens (*Culture Swabs, Urine Containers, Blood Culture bottles*)

All culture swabs, urine containers and Blood Culture bottles should be labeled appropriately and place in a Biohazard zip-lock plastic bag. Place the test requisition in the OUTSIDE POCKET, so it is not contaminated by leakage from the swab, urine container or Blood Culture bottle.

Courier Services

Courier services are available for transporting specimens to AVH Lab from many locations throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. This service provides same-day delivery of specimens (including frozen) under controlled conditions. Pickup frequency is determined by referral volume. Our Laboratory Director will discuss the criteria with you.

You have the opportunity to send specimens independently to AVH Lab using your preferred or routine method of transportation. We work closely with UPS and FedEx and receive daily shipments from them. (NOTE: DHL no longer delivers to the Aspen area.) To expedite your shipment, please utilize the following address:

**Aspen Valley Hospital Laboratory
0401 Castle Creek Road
Aspen, CO 81611**

Coordinate the shipment of specimens to arrive Monday through Saturday (we have no routine deliveries on Sunday or national holidays); otherwise, the specimens could be delayed and specimen integrity compromised.