

Shipping Refrigerated Norovirus Specimens In Extreme Heat

Keeping Your Norovirus Specimens Cold During Hot Texas Summers

How to Beat the Texas Heat and Submit Testable Specimens

Norovirus Specimens Must Arrive Cold at Laboratory

THE ISSUE: Many norovirus specimens arrive at DSHS Laboratory at ambient temperatures. These specimens are unsuitable for testing and must be rejected.

- Courier and shipping service vehicles that transport specimens are not refrigerated.
- Even on a moderately hot Texas summer day (35°C/ 95°F), the internal temperature of a vehicle can reach 54°C/130 °F within 30 minutes.
- Norovirus stool specimens **MUST** be kept at 4 °C.

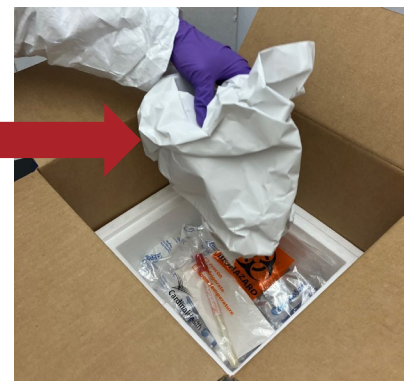


Much of Texas is enduring + 100 °F heat this summer.

Keeping Norovirus Specimens Cold in Transit

PACKING TIPS: Ship in insulated containers with enough frozen cold packs to keep cold for up to 48 hrs.

- Use multiple frozen cold packs in each insulated container. **One cold pack is not enough!**
 - **Do NOT use dry ice.**
- **Surround** specimens with frozen cold packs.
- **Maximize** insulation by packing **all** remaining empty space in cooler with absorbent material.
- **Secure** cooler lid in place.
- **Ship OVERNIGHT** to guarantee timely delivery to the Lab.
- **Specimens accepted Mon.– Fri. 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. only.**
 - **Do NOT ship for weekend or holiday delivery.**



Using multiple cool packs and minimizing empty space improves insulation in containers.

Specimen Submission Questions?

Molecular Biology Team:

(512) 776-7784 or (512) 776-2409

Norovirus Surveillance Program:

FoodborneTexas@dshs.texas.gov

Specimen Acquisition Group:

(512) 776-7598 or 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578 (toll free)