

Protocol for shipping COVID-19 samples to Color

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Important notes on shipping and turnaround time:

- All samples must be kept at or below room temperature, but above freezing, for the entire duration of collection and shipping.
- Results will be available 1-3 days after the samples arrive at Colo
- Samples should be shipped overnight the same day they are collected.
- A delay in shipping samples will result in a delay in results and the possibility of the samples expiring.

FedEx shipping schedule considerations:

- Shipments should be sent via FedEx Priority Overnight.
- Please contact FedEx to determine the latest pick-up or drop-off time for each day. FedEx Drop Boxes should not be used.
- Shipments Monday - Friday will arrive the next day if dropped off/picked up by the FedEx Priority Overnight cutoff time using the included labels.
 - Note: In the case of Friday shipments, “Saturday delivery” is selected.
- FedEx Priority Overnight does not apply on weekends or national holidays.
 - Shipments on Saturday arrive on Monday with the included label. Please be aware that scheduled pick-ups may not be available and FedEx drop-off locations may have limited hours.
 - Sunday shipments are discouraged.
- You may need a different FedEx label if you require special shipping arrangements.
- Please contact covidshipping@color.com with any shipping questions.

Materials included for sample shipment*:

- Large biohazard bag
- Absorbent mat for the bottom of large biohazard bag
- Ice packs (2 per shipment, should be frozen at least 48 hours ahead of time)
- Insulated box liner
- Cardboard box with return Priority Overnight shipping label and UN 3373 sticker already affixed.

* Please plan your shipments based on the number of shipping materials you purchased. No more than 50 samples should be shipped in a single box.

Packing your samples for shipping

1. Place individual samples (packaged in their small clear plastic bag) in a large biohazard bag with the absorbent pad at the bottom. Note: The biohazard bag should not contain more than 50 samples.
2. Tie the bag closed with a knot.
3. Open the insulated box liner, forming a square bottom, and place it inside the cardboard box with the shipping labels.
4. Place one frozen ice pack on the bottom of the insulated liner. Then put the biohazard bag and the second frozen ice pack on top.
5. Close the insulated liner by peeling off the backing of the adhesive strip and sealing the liner, ensuring a tight seal. Tuck the edges inside the cardboard box.
6. Seal the cardboard box.
7. Provide box to FedEx.