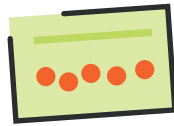


Packaging and Shipping of Newborn Screening Specimens to the Public Health Laboratory

Preparing specimens for shipment:



Collect specimens between **24 and 48 hours** of age.



Specimens **should not** be held or batched.



Air dry in a horizontal position for **at least 3–4 hours** before sending.



Send within 24 hours of collection.

Which Packaging Is Acceptable?

ACCEPTABLE

Paper and or cardboard envelopes and shipping boxes



UNACCEPTABLE

Plastic bags or polymer bags (including bubble-wrap)



Reasoning:

Plastic/polymer envelopes may create an atmosphere that exposes the specimen to heat and/or humidity. These conditions can invalidate test results. Thus, specimens shipped to the laboratory in plastic/polymer mailers will be deemed unsatisfactory.

Packaging Issues or Concerns?



Please contact
**Newborn Screening
Quality Improvement:**

 NBSQI@dph.sc.gov

Need more information?

Scan this QR code to view instruction on collection and handling of blood specimens in the DPH newborn screening manual.



**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**