**Vehicle Transport of Biological Materials**

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

For transport of biological specimens via personal vehicle:

* The specimens must be properly packaged according to the shipment type and secured against exposure or contamination.

Triple Packaging: Requires (3 layers of packaging = multiple barriers)

1. Primary leak-proof container (e.g. heat sealed, metal crimped, rubber stopper or secured lid with parafilm or tape).
2. Secondary leak-proof container:

* For shipping/transporting liquids, absorbent material required
* For shipping/transporting multiple glass containers, separation of individual primary containers required

1. Outer container:

* Rigid and have at least one side measuring 100 mm X 100 mm.
* Adequate strength for its capacity, mass, and intended use
* Include an itemized list of package contents between the secondary and outer packaging.
* The vehicle must be “dedicated” to that purpose, not utilized for other purposes at the same time (e.g., patient, passenger, or food transport).
* Transporters must be licensed drivers and comply will all applicable driving laws and safety standards (e.g., use of seatbelts).
* Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) should be generated to include a description of the steps which should be taken if one is involved in a motor vehicle accident *en route*. The SOPs should include:
  + Call for emergency assistance, if needed
  + Let all emergency responders know that you are transporting potential biohazards
  + Notify your supervisor to contact the shipper and recipient and inform them of the sample status
  + Arrange for alternate transportation if you are not able to get to your destination
  + Shipper contact information should be provided on the transporting container along with biohazard stickers (which can be supplied by the Biosafety Office).
* A Biological Spill Kit Should be Available in the Transport Vehicle

Note: When transporting dry ice in a vehicle, the box should not be placed inside the passenger compartment to prevent carbon dioxide accumulation within the vehicle.