



15 July 2020

Dear IMPAACT Laboratories:

The Biomedical Research Institute (BRI) is able to resume receiving international shipments at this time. NIAID sponsored sites/laboratories wishing to send specimens to BRI should notify the repository via email (brirepository@afbr-bri.org) at least two weeks prior to anticipated shipment. This email should include information concerning the type, number and anticipated shipment date of the specimens that are to be sent. BRI will work with the sending laboratories and provide them with a date that is appropriate for shipping. This process should be used for both pass-through specimens and specimens that are to be stored. Specimens must be shipped in accordance with the Section 17 "Laboratory Considerations" of the IMPAACT MOP which is located at: https://impaactnetwork.org/DocFiles/MOP/17_LabConsiderations.pdf

The NICHD Fisher Bioservices repository is also accepting specimens. Please communicate with Ryan Patrick Babay (ryan.busa-babay@thermofisher.com) if you have any questions or concerns. You may also reach out to the NICHD Laboratory Specialist Team (NICHDLabSpecialist@westat.com). Please note that a new version of *SOP Number: SHP-001.01.02 Title: Shipment of Clinical Specimens to the NICHD Specimen Repository* has been posted to the HANC website <https://www.hanc.info/labs/labresources/procedures/Pages/actnShippingDemo.aspx> (see also attached). Please be sure all lab personnel who will ship samples to Fisher review the SOP and follow the updated procedures for any and all future shipments to Fisher. The following are important points in the SOP to consider when shipping to Fisher Bioservices:

- Updated repository address and contact information
- Shipping files no longer accepted on CDs
- Scannable barcode labels required
- Unscannable items will be returned to sender for relabeling
- Use of LDMS shipping QA/QC barcode scanning required when preparing shipment

IMPAACT Specialty Laboratories have confirmed that they are available to receive shipments.

Sending laboratories should communicate with each receiving laboratory prior to shipment to notify them that specimens are being shipped and when the laboratory should anticipate their arrival.

Non-US laboratories should practice due diligence in confirming that shipments can be transported to the United States as part of the preparatory process prior to sending specimens. At this time, there continue to be many concerns about international shipments of specimens on dry ice and LN2. Shipping laboratories should monitor all shipments to ensure that they reach their destination and continue to communicate with the recipient concerning the expected arrival dates for shipments.

Kind regards,

IMPAACT Laboratory Center
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