

## National Referral of Stool Specimens to the National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory

1. Collect two stool specimens, at least 24 hours apart, and within 14 days of onset of paralysis, in sterile containers. Each specimen should be approximately five grams. Two specimens are requested due to intermittent virus shedding.
2. Store the specimens at 4°C until ready to send. If the shipment cannot be sent for more than 72 hours, freeze the specimens.
3. Complete the AFP specimen laboratory request form and include with the shipment.
4. Send the specimens to the National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory via the local hospital pathology referral department. Request that the shipment be packaged according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Packing Instruction (PI) 650 and classified as UN 3373 biological substance category B.
5. The shipment can be sent by overnight courier, with sufficient ice bricks to keep the specimens chilled while in transit. Dry ice is not needed. Address the shipment to:

Dr Bruce Thorley  
National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory  
Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL)  
Doherty Institute  
792 Elizabeth Street  
Melbourne 3000  
Australia  
Telephone: 03 9342 9607 (direct to lab)  
Telephone: 03 9342 9600 (24 hour contact)

6. The National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory will pay for the shipping costs. If the local hospital pathology referral department does not routinely send shipments to VIDRL, contact the laboratory for further information. The specimens must be packed according to IATA PI 650. If a member of staff is not qualified for the shipment of biological specimens, contact the Poliovirus Reference Laboratory for assistance.
7. Notify the National Enterovirus Reference Laboratory of the impending shipment. Contact the laboratory if you have any questions or difficulties with arranging the shipment:

Telephone: 03 9342 9607 or 03 9342 9600  
Facsimile: 03 9342 9665  
Email: [enterovirus@vidrl.org.au](mailto:enterovirus@vidrl.org.au)