

**Poster 1:
BTL/C-494**

**Instructions for packaging all laboratory specimens
in a UN3373 **BAG** (from patients with known or suspected COVID-19)**

Samples (e.g. blood, urine, swabs, sputa etc...) from query or confirmed COVID-19 patients are packaged as below:

1



- Before entering the patient's room, write patient information on sample tube label with a ball point pen or apply patient identification label (except for pre-transfusion samples, which must be labelled using patient identification band details and signed at the bedside).
- Ensure sample is fully labelled with MAC (minimum acceptance criteria, see [BTL User Manual](#)).
- Place biohazard label on the sample.

2



- When sample has been taken, decontaminate outside of the sample with Actichlor (Dilution rate is 1/1000 ppm).

3



- Wrap the sample in the absorbent material.
- Place wrapped sample **but not the request form**, in the clear plastic Pathoseal® 95 bag (or double bag in usual biohazard specimen bags if Pathoseal® 95 bag unavailable) and seal.
- Decontaminate the outside of the Pathoseal® 95 bag or second biohazard bag with Actichlor (1/1000 ppm).

4



- A colleague will hold a large UN3373 orange transport ("flu") bag open at the door of the patient area room and the sample bag is dropped into this. A separate UN3373 orange transport ("flu") bag must be used for each laboratory i.e. Blood Sciences (Bio & Haem), Virology / Microbiology etc.

5



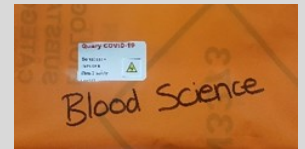
- Place a biohazard sticker and write COVID-19 on the request form.
- Transfusion Request Forms should be completed using patient details on the pre-transfusion sample tube and PP'd with the sampler's name.

6



- Place the request form in large orange UN3373 transport ("flu") bag ensuring that a separate bag is used for each laboratory i.e. Blood Sciences (Bio & Haem), Virology / Microbiology etc.

7



- Peel away the tape liner, and fold down adhesive to cover the opening & seal UN3373 orange transport ("flu") bag.
- Attach the [COVID-19 Transport Sticker \(C-498\)](#) to the outside of the UN3373 bag.

Clearly mark the Laboratory name on the outside of the UN3373 orange transport ("flu") bag Blood Sciences (Bio & Haem), Virology /Microbiology etc.

8



- For Internal Transport, place in a clean protective carrier bag.
- All samples transported by road should be transported in UN3373 transport box provided by drivers.

The colleague outside the patient area will complete steps 5, 6, 7 & 8.

DO NOT SEND SPECIMENS VIA PNEUMATIC TUBE (POD)

C-494, V3, issue date: 24/04/2020, Belfast Trust Laboratories (BTL) - The [BTL User Manual](#) can be found [here](#).

Order details (non-stock): **Influenza Bulk Transport Bags (orange UN3373 transport bag)**, supplier Jones & Brooks, cat. no. 106887. Unit price £137.50 per 1000 bags. **PathoSeal® 95 A5 with 50ml Absorbent**, DGP (Intelsius), cat. no. BZ008. Unit price = £44.15 per 100 bags (plus £1 carriage). Order details (stock item): **Green biohazard labels (stock item)**: WPH000071 can also be found as: Label Biohazard Warning Green 25X38mm. [COVID-19 Transport Stickers \(C-498\)](#) can be printed using [this template](#) .
(Pathoseal® 95 bags & orange UN3373 "Flu" transport bags can be ordered by the ward & a supply is also available from the Labs)