

# Safely packing biological samples for Hendra virus testing

It is the submitter's responsibility to make sure that packed specimens comply with transport regulations.  
**Be aware of your responsibilities.**

## Instructions for packing potential Hendra virus (HeV) samples:

**1:** Ensure your personal safety; wear disposable gloves while preparing samples for laboratory testing of HeV

**2: Samples from sick horses must be double-bagged.** Samples from clinically healthy horses for HeV health testing only require single-bagging.

Check that the lids on sample containers are secure without opening bags

**3:** Check that each **primary receptacle** (e.g. tubes/bottles containing blood, urine, swabs) is uniquely and clearly labelled.

Put samples from each animal in separate bags.

**Primary Receptacles**  
(e.g. tubes and/or bottles containing blood, urine or any other substance, often packaged into resealable plastic bags, each from a single patient)

**4:** Place the bagged samples in **secondary packaging**. This could be a plastic container with screw top lid or zip lock plastic bag.

**5:** Place enough absorbent material (e.g. cotton wool) between the bagged primary receptacles and the secondary packaging to be able to soak up all of the liquid in the primary receptacles should they break or leak. Remember—do not open the zip locked bags immediately around the primary receptacles.

**6:** Fill out a Sample Submission Form. Remember to include all the details of the property including the PIC and full history.  
Clearly write on the Submission Form

**HENDRA VIRUS EXCLUSION – URGENT PRIORITY**

**Secondary packaging**  
(e.g. polycarbonate bottle with screw lid, or larger outer plastic bag [heat-sealed or zip-locked], containing absorbent cushioning material as necessary) and double bagged

**7:** Place the Submission Form on the **outside** of the secondary packing, so it can be read before the samples are opened.

Place the secondary packaging/container in a supported polystyrene box with cold bricks.

NB Ensure there is no reference to exotic disease on outside packing.

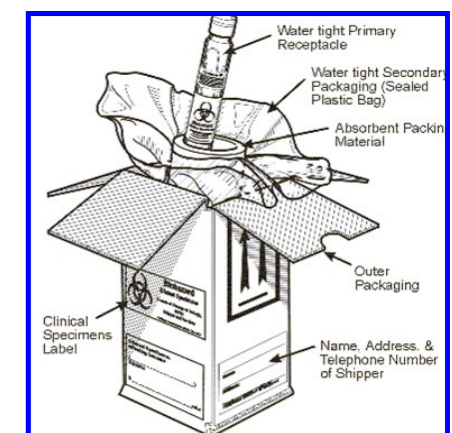
**8:** Call the Laboratory between 8am and 11pm Mon to Fri on 08 8202 3300 to arrange a special courier. After hours call 1300 307 190.

Notify PIRSA on 08 8207 7900 or the EAD hotline on 1800 675 888

### Where do I send samples?

Pack securely according to the relevant required standards and consign or deliver samples to:

**Gribbles VETLAB**  
**33 Flemington St**  
**Glenside SA 5065**



**Outer packaging**  
Container e.g. supported polystyrene box with cold bricks



Government of South Australia

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