

BULLETIN

To:	BC Health Authority Laboratory Service Providers
Subject:	Sample Shipment to the United States
Date:	September 24, 2025

Please share this information with your teams as appropriate.

The OOP/OOC Program has had anecdotal information of delays in packages crossing the US border. We have now had 2 confirmed instances of sample shipments delayed crossing the border resulting in the samples reaching the referral laboratory in a thawed state and unsuitable for analysis.

We believe this is a result of the recent suspension of the *de minimis* exception for commercial packages resulting in significantly more volume requiring US Customs intervention. This results in an overall delay for all packages. It is unclear if these delays are temporary or will be in place for the duration.

For those laboratories which refer samples to the USA for testing please be aware of this potential problem and adapt your process accordingly. At a minimum, samples shipped in a frozen state should include enough dry ice or equivalent to ensure ideal shipping temperatures are maintained for an extended time period. The same is true for samples shipped at refrigerator temperatures.

For questions or assistance please send your inquiries to ooc@phsa.ca

Kim Nicholson, BA MLT
Lead, Laboratory Services
Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services
Provincial Health Services Authority

Sheryl Thiessen, MA, MLT
OOP Program Lead
Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services
Provincial Health Services Authority