How do I transport a Hazardous Sample?

Hazardous materials, both chemical and biological hazards, MUST be transported in a durable, leak-proof secondary container with a tight-fitting lid.

What is a PRIMARY CONTAINER?

A container that provides an immediate barrier between a hazardous agent and the environment

Examples: sample tubes, blood tubes, syringes, vials, chemical bottles
What is a SECONDARY CONTAINER?

A container that a hazardous agent in a primary container can be placed inside of and securely closed.

What is the PURPOSE of a SECONDARY CONTAINER?

To provide a second layer of protection between the hazardous agent, either chemical or biological, and the surrounding environment if the primary container leaks or breaks.
What are the requirements for a SECONDARY CONTAINER?

- A **durable, leak-proof** container with a **tight fitting lid**, preferably either a snap-top or screw top

- **For biohazardous samples:** The universal biohazard sign posted on the outside of the secondary container

- **For large sample volumes or for multiple blood tubes:** An absorbent needs to be placed between the inner container and the secondary container. This absorbent should be sufficient to absorb all of the liquid that is being transported.

After a hazardous sample has been securely placed inside of secondary containment, **ALL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT MUST BE REMOVED** before you travel outside of the laboratory!!!!

This means **NO gloves or lab coats** outside of the laboratory.
When biohazardous agents are being transported:
Is your Secondary Container HARD TO HANDLE?

Place the secondary container in a cooler with a handle making it easy to carry. If the sample needs to remain cold, ice can be added to the cooler.

Is your Secondary Container HEAVY, or do you need to transport your sample a LONG DISTANCE?

For transporting HEAVY CONTAINERS or transporting samples LONGER DISTANCES, the use of a cart is recommended.