

## Safe transport of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus cultures, isolates and patient specimens as Biological Substance, Category B

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Based on current knowledge, the characteristics of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus do not warrant its classification, for transport purposes, as infectious substance, Category A.

Consequently, and according to applicable international transport regulations, WHO advises that pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus cultures, isolates or patient specimens can be safely transported as "**BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B**", assigned to **UN 3373**.

Nevertheless, WHO continues to support shipments to WHO Collaborating Centres for influenza from places where outbreaks continue to occur. Requests for assistance with shipments can be addressed by email directly to [GISN@who.int](mailto:GISN@who.int).

Shippers should be reminded that no specific training is required for shipping Category B substances. However, if the shipment includes other dangerous goods such as **liquid nitrogen** or **dry ice**, shippers must be trained appropriately in the transport of those goods. Shippers should also be aware that individual airlines may apply their own policies which may be stricter than applicable international transport regulations.

For further assistance, guidance to assist shippers with classifying, documenting, marking, labelling and packaging infectious substances: ***A guide for shipping infectious substances*** is published at [http://www.who.int/ihr/infectious\\_substances/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ihr/infectious_substances/en/index.html).

Additional information can be found in the WHO document ***Guidance on regulations for the transport of infectious substances***, available at [http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/biosafety/WHO\\_HSE\\_EPR\\_2008\\_10/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/biosafety/WHO_HSE_EPR_2008_10/en/index.html)