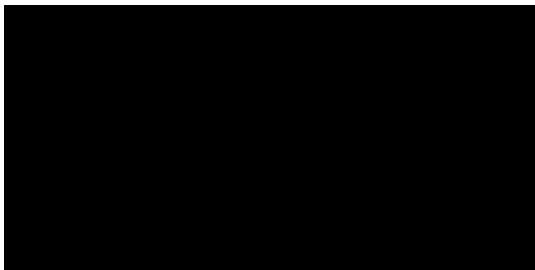


7 March 2022



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 17 January 2022 which was transferred to Taranaki DHB on 11 February 2022. You have requested the following information:

"...official guidance documents we use in New Zealand to cover the handling and transportation of microbiology samples from provincial hospitals to centralized testing laboratories. I expect that official guidance would cover aspects such as reported by Miller et al. [1] including transport media, temperature and time from specimen extraction from patient until the analysis is completed at the centralized laboratory."

Taranaki DHB's documents for sending microbiology specimens away are based on the IATA Infectious Substances Shipping Guidelines, Edition 16. We also follow the guidance of our reference laboratories, Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) to whom we send most of our microbiology specimens. Please see the full list of guidelines consulted for our procedures as per the below:

- IATA Infectious Substances Shipping Guidelines, Edition 16
- AS-NZS 2243.3 Safety in Laboratories Part 3 – Microbiological Safety and Containment
- NZ Land Transport Rule (Dangerous Goods 2005) Amendment 2016 (for samples by road)
- ISO 15189

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards



Katy Sheffield
Chief Operating Officer (acting)