

Dried Blood Spot Collection, Packaging & Storage Guidelines

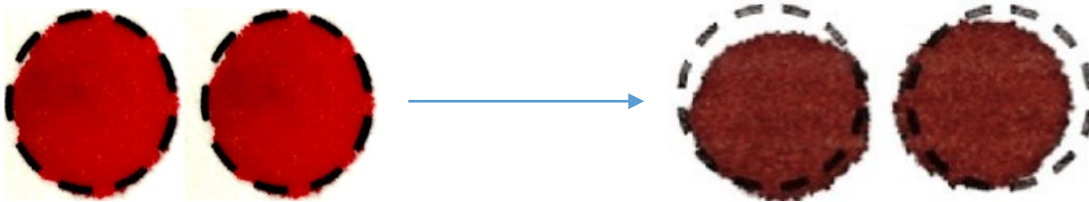


This document outlines the proper packaging and storage of Dried Blood Spot (DBS) cards after a collection event.

1. Before packaging the DBS cards

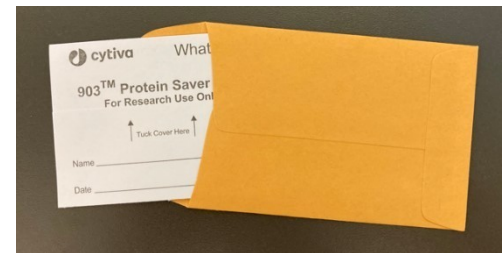
a) Make sure the cards have dried for a minimum of three hours:

- ▶ The cards should be dried in a secure, locked location with good airflow, away from direct sunlight for a minimum of 3 hours to overnight, before packaging.
- ▶ The colour of the dried blood spots should change from bright red to reddish brown.



2. Packaging the DBS cards

- ### a) Fold the protective flap over the sample collection area, then place in a provided yellow envelope. Do not glue or tape the envelope shut.

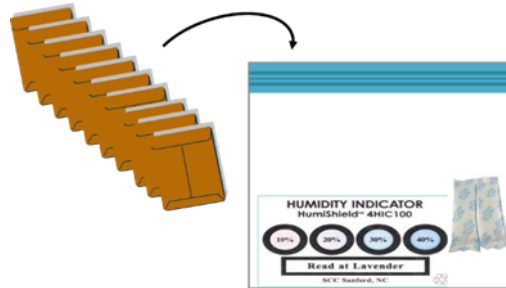


- ### b) Place the enveloped card in a gas-impermeable Bitran bag with a desiccant pack and humidity indicator card. The Bitran bag CANNOT be substituted with a regular Ziploc bag.



c) You can place up to 10 enveloped DBS cards per Bitran bag

Remove all air from the bag, then firmly press the strip at the top to seal.



3. After packaging the DBS cards

a) Dried DBS cards can be stored at room temperature for up to one week.
If samples are being batched or will not be sent right away, store in a fridge or freezer.

b) Check the humidity indicator frequently.

If the desiccant pack is saturated, it will turn from blue to pink. If this happens, please place the DBS cards in a new Bitran bag with a new desiccant pack and humidity card.

