



# Safely Collecting and Packaging COVID-19 Evidence

## Intelligence Dissemination Report

New Jersey Regional Operations & Intelligence Center (ROIC), Crime Analysis Unit ~ ROIC202004-05095C  
ROIC SIN: NJ-CRM-0300 (Suspicious Events) / DHS SIN: HSEC 3.10 (Incidents)  
2 April 2020

### Key Findings

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey State Police Forensic & Technical Services Section has updated its protocol for collecting and packaging evidence.

### Details

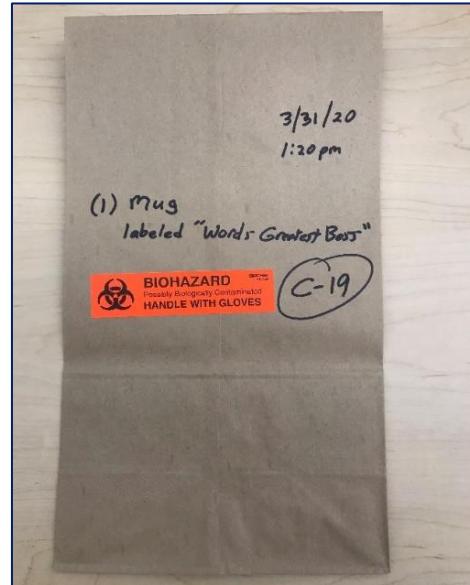
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indicate that COVID-19 may live on shiny, hard surfaces for up to 72 hours. However, if evidence collectors gather and package the evidence properly using personal protective equipment (PPE), it should not be a long-term concern.

### Recommendations for Law Enforcement

Please review the revised instructions for the collection, documentation, and packaging of evidence:

- Collect evidence as always using proper PPE protection.
- Mark the package with the collection date and time.
- **For evidence potentially exposed to COVID-19**, put a biohazard sticker on the exterior of the packaging and write "C-19" next to the sticker, as demonstrated in the image at right.

Indicating the contents may have been exposed to COVID-19 with a biohazard and "C-19" handwritten next to the sticker will alert the forensic practitioners to take the necessary precautions when analyzing the evidence. It is also vital that evidence collectors indicate the date and time collection on the packaging.



**Source:** Law Enforcement

**Source Reliability:** Completely Reliable

**Contributing Agency:** NJSP Forensic & Technical Services Section

**Dissemination:** New Jersey Law Enforcement

### Contact Information

Any agency with additional information regarding this topic, or with questions about this product, should contact the ROIC Crime Analysis Unit at (609) 963-6900, ext. 6246, or [RCC@gw.njsp.org](mailto:RCC@gw.njsp.org).

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION NOTICE:** This product contains LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE information for situational awareness; it does not establish probable cause to arrest or detain a subject. Recipients should not share any portion of this product outside the law enforcement community, such as the media, the public, or other personnel who do not have a valid need-to-know.