




# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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### NOTICE OF DFS POLICY CHANGE

To: All Law Enforcement Agencies served by DFS  
From: Linda C. Jackson, Department Director  
Date: June 7, 2022   
RE: Revised Packaging Requirements for Submissions of Powdered Substances

Suspected controlled substances in powder form may contain potent opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil. To reduce the chances of accidental exposure, these substances must be handled and packaged properly.

Effective immediately, all suspected controlled substances in powder form must be double bagged in plastic as an increased safety measure. First, items should be placed into a closed plastic ziplock-type bag or heat-sealed bag and then sealed into an additional plastic evidence bag or heat sealed bag, which will serve as the outer evidence container.

In addition, tablets and capsules submitted by mail must be packaged in a rigid container, such as a cardboard box. Synthetic opioids are increasingly being identified in tablets that appear to be pharmaceuticals. Rigid containers will minimize the potential for the evidence to be crushed in transit and therefore become powdered substances.

For questions or concerns, please contact the Evidence Receiving Section Supervisor at the DFS Laboratory that provides service to your agency:

<b>Laboratory</b>	<b>Section Contact</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Central (Richmond)	Ellen Spain	(804) 588-4027
Eastern (Norfolk)	David Kvello	(757) 355-5967
Northern (Manassas)	Amanda Matthews	(703) 334-9766
Western (Roanoke)	Chris McVey	(540) 283-5906