

Stool collection information

What you need to know before collecting a specimen

- Special collection kits (Para-Pak vials) are required for GI PCR Panel Plus, ova and parasites, giardia and leukocytes. Special collection devices are also required for Fecal Occult Blood tests. They are available from all UCHealth Laboratories' specimen collection centers or your healthcare provider's office.
- **NO formed stool specimens will be accepted for *Clostridium difficile* testing.**
- Make sure the stool specimen does not mix with urine or water. **Contaminated specimens cannot be tested.**
- Some medications can affect your test results. Check with your doctor before collecting a stool specimen if you are taking any of the following:
 - Antidiarrheals (ex: Kaopectate, Pepto-Bismol)
 - Antacids (ex: Roloids, Maalox)
 - Oily laxatives
 - Suppositories
 - For best results, wait for the effects of the medication to pass before collecting a stool specimen
- If you are currently taking any antibiotics, wait two to three weeks to collect a specimen.
- If you have had a barium enema, upper GI, or gall bladder X-ray, wait 7-10 days after to collect a specimen.
- If collecting for the same test several times, wait 24-48 hours between collecting specimens (ex: Ova and Parasites).

How to collect and submit a stool specimen

- Collect stool directly in a clean, dry container, or on plastic wrap stretched across the toilet which then should be placed in a clean, dry container. Label the container with your **full legal name, date of birth, date and time of collection**.
- Fill appropriate collection vial so the specimen's total volume reaches the **red line**. You may collect specimens from separate bowel movements to fill the vial(s). Include any bloody or liquid portions. Secure the lid tightly and shake well to thoroughly mix.
- Refer to the reverse side of this brochure for information regarding when the specimen needs to be returned to the lab.

How to collect and submit a stool specimen from a child in diapers

- Specimens submitted in a diaper will not be accepted.
- Line the inside of the diaper with a plastic wrap so there is no contact of stool with the diaper.
- Stool specimens cannot be mixed with urine.
- Use a urine bag provided by the laboratory to prevent stool from being contaminated with urine.
- Transfer stool to appropriate testing container. See reverse side of brochure.

Remember to

- Do not submit stool specimens in diapers- special instructions above.
- Do not collect specimens while taking antibiotics, antidiarrheals, laxatives, etc.
- Write your full legal name, date of birth, date and time of collection on each container.

Test	Container	Temperature	Return Within
Stool Culture (LAB8615) <i>Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, E. coli 0157 & Shigatoxins</i>	Orange Para-Pak vial	Room Temperature or Refrigerated	24 hours
Stool WBC (Leukocytes) (LAB4370)	Clean vial	Refrigerated	As soon as possible
Ova and Parasites (LAB955)	Grey and Pink Para-Pak vials	Refrigerated	24 hours
Giardia/Cryptosporidium (LAB8626)	Pink Para-Pak vial	Refrigerated	24 hours
Fecal Occult Blood (LAB694)	Polymedco Device	Room Temperature for up to 15 days or can be refrigerated at 2-8°C for up to 30 days.	Mail back inoculated device using envelope provided with kit.
Rotavirus (LAB443)	Clean vial	Refrigerate within one hour of collection and transport on ice pack	24 hours
Clostridium difficile PCR with reflex to Toxin EIA (LAB8663)	Clean vial (Specimen must be liquid to soft- conforming to the shape of the container. Formed stools unacceptable for testing.)	Refrigerate within one hour of collection and transport on ice pack	As soon as possible
H. pylori Stool Antigen (LAB397) (see test details on reverse)	Fresh specimen in a sterile specimen cup provided by the laboratory or your healthcare provider's office.	Collect the specimen in a sterile specimen cup Grossly bloody specimens (containing no visible stool), very mucoid or watery diarrheal specimens will not be accepted. Refrigerate within one hour of collection and transport on ice pack	As soon as possible

Please return sample(s) to any UCHealth outpatient laboratory location.

UCHealth Memorial
Laboratory

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uchealth.org

