

**Collecting Stool Samples for Bacterial Enteric Pathogen Testing, Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile Toxin, Parasite Screen and/or Ova and Parasites**


**How to Prepare**

- **DO NOT** use a laxative before collecting the stool sample including mineral or castor oil.
- Empty bladder (urinate) completely to prevent stool sample contamination with urine.
- For Ova & Parasite test requests, ensure [Stool Ova & Parasite History Form MI6011](#) is completed by your physician and is submitted with the Laboratory Requisition.

**Risks or Cautions**

- The SAF solution is poisonous; keep out of reach of children.
- If swallowed, drink lots of milk or water and **IMMEDIATELY** call the POISON Centre 1-800-332-1414.

**Collecting the Sample**

- Obtain sterile collection container from physician or laboratory staff. Depending on the tests ordered, you may receive an empty container with an orange lid, or a Stool Collection Kit which includes one empty container (red lid) and one container with a preservative called **SAF** (yellow lid).
- **Wash hands** with soap and water before collecting sample. 

**Adults:**

- If you need to collect more than one stool sample (i.e. X3) collect each sample on a different day.
- Collect the stool sample into any clean, dry disposable container or onto plastic wrap placed under the toilet seat, or waxed cardboard container.
- **DO NOT** let water touch the stool sample.

**Infants (diaper):**

- **DO NOT** submit stool sample in diapers. For small children with diarrhea, or liquid stool, fasten a diaper liner (e.g. plastic kitchen wrap) to the diaper using childproof safety pins. Remove the stool sample from the diaper using a disposable plastic spoon and put into the container(s) following the steps below.

**Adding Stool to Collection Containers:**

- Take parts of the stool that look bloody or slimy (contain mucous/pus).



**Sterile Container (orange lid) for Bacterial Enteric Pathogen, Rotavirus, Clostridium difficile Toxin and Parasite Screen tests**

- Fill the empty container at least 1/3 full (30 mL). **Do not** fill more than half full.
- Replace lid.

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Stool Collection Kit for Ova and Parasite test

- Fill SAF fixative container (yellow lid) by adding enough stool to bring the fluid **as close to the fill line as possible but not above.** This will require approximately 1 teaspoon (5mL) of stool. **Do not overfill** as testing cannot be performed on overfilled SAF containers.
  - **If a whole parasite (e.g. worm) is identified**, place in SAF container (yellow lid).
- Fill the empty container (red lid) to the fill line displayed on the container.
- **Stool must be added to both containers of the kit.**
- Replace the lids. For the SAF container, shake the stool and SAF until well mixed.
- **Wash hands** thoroughly with soap and water after collecting the sample.

Labelling the Sample

Label the collection container with:

- Laboratory or physician office issued patient label **or**
- Write the patient **full first and last name, Provincial Health Number (PHN)**, or Government issued identification (Federal, Military, RCMP, Immigration).
- Write **date and time of collection**. For **multiple samples** to be collected on different days, also write #1, #2, etc. on each container to indicate the order the samples were collected.



Lab Requisition

- **Print** the date and time the sample was collected on the lab requisition.
- **Fold** and place the requisition in the **outside** pocket of the plastic resealable bag. **Do not** put the requisition in the bag with the sample collection container.
- Place sample container(s) in the provided plastic resealable bag(s). For **multiple samples** write the date and time the sample was collected on the requisition with the corresponding number belonging to the sample (i.e. #1, #2 ) in the "Date & Time Collected:" space at the bottom of the Microbiology requisition for each sample collected.

Sample Delivery to Lab

- Transport the sample(s) and requisition(s) to the laboratory as soon as possible (within 8 hours after collecting).
- If the stool sample cannot be delivered to the laboratory immediately after collection, keep refrigerated and deliver to the laboratory within 24 hours.

**Samples not labelled as required or those that do not have a completed requisition will NOT be tested.**

Questions? Contact the Laboratory Information Centre at 403-770-3600