



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES



ENTERIC PATHOGEN
SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS AND KIT

Procedure:

1. The collection kit consists of one to four different screw capped vials.
Some of these vials contain **POISON**  and are clearly marked. **"DO NOT INGEST AND AVOID SKIN CONTACT WITH THESE LIQUIDS."** Verify that the transport medium (preservative) has not expired. Specimens received in expired medium will be rejected.
2. Identify the patient.
3. Label each vial with the patient name, date, and time of collection.
4. Fill out the PHL test requisition form and questionnaire completely, and legibly.
5. Collect the stool specimen in a wide mouth container, bedpan, or on a clean newspaper or plastic wrap stretched over the toilet seat opening to prevent the stool from falling into the toilet. **DO NOT MIX URINE WITH THE SAMPLE.** Stool hats are available through the PHL upon request.
6. Using the plastic spatula attached to the screw capped vial/s add sufficient stool to fill each vial to the line marked "FILL TO THIS LINE". It is important to sample areas of the specimen, which appear bloody, slimy, or watery.
7. Thoroughly mix vials containing the specimen and preservative (those vials labeled C&S, PVA or STF) using the spatula. Replace the cap tightly. **WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY.**
8. Replace vial/s into the small plastic bags and reseal. Shake vials containing preservative vigorously to ensure that the specimens are well mixed. Place all vials into larger Zipper lock bag, seal, and place bagged vials in the aluminum liner. Cap tightly.
9. Wrap the completed requisition form and questionnaire around the aluminum liner and place in the cardboard mailing container. Cap the mailing container.

10. Ship to the Public Health Laboratories within 24 hours of collection to assure rapid diagnostic results. If unable to ship within 24 hours, unpreserved specimen must be refrigerated at 2-4°C. If unable to ship within 72 hours the unpreserved specimen must be frozen (less than 0°C) until shipment (NOT RECOMMENDED). Please indicate on the test requisition if the sample has been frozen.

Additional Important Information:

1. The stool sample must not come in contact with water or urine during collection.
2. The patient should not have received any antimicrobial therapy (antibiotics, antimalarials, or antiparasitic drugs) or any antidiarrheal or antacid medications within the preceding two weeks. False negative results occur frequently as a result of therapy.
3. Stool must be free of radiographic contrast media and dyes as this will result in false negative results.
4. The vials must not be overfilled. Doing so will cause insufficient preservation of the specimen and compromise the test results. An insufficient amount of specimen may result in a false negative finding.

Stool Collection Kit Contents:

1. 1 to 4 screw capped vials in plastic Zipper lock bags (with or without medium)
2. Large Zipper lock bag
3. Aluminum inner liner
4. Cardboard mailing container
5. Test requisition and questionnaire

If there are any questions concerning specimen collection or handling please call 271-4661 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4661.

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