

STOOL COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR ENTERIC DISEASE TESTING

at the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH)



This is a vial of Enteric Transport Media (ETM) that is used for enteric pathogen, norovirus, and parasitic *Cryptosporidium** testing.



It is important to have the proper ratio of stool to preservative in order to ensure that there is no overgrowth of normal flora in the stool and to keep any organisms that are in the stool viable during transport.

When stool is added to the vial of ETM preservative, the total mixture should not go above the marked line on the label.

This picture is an example of what NOT to do.

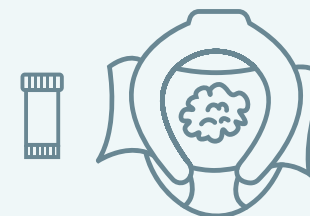


There is a spork connected to the cap of the ETM vial that can be used to add stool to the vial.

Do not fill the vial above the red line on the label.

Stool Specimen Collection Instructions

1. Put plastic wrap over the toilet to catch the stool OR collect the stool in a plastic container.



NOTE: Do not let water or urine touch the stool specimen.

2. Use the spork to add the stool to the vial of media.



DO NOT FILL ABOVE THE FILL LINE ON THE LABEL.

3. Screw the top tightly and shake to ensure the media mixes with the stool.



*Testing for other parasites, including *Cyclospora*, require 10% formalin stool collection containers.

NOTES

- Each specimen must be clearly labeled with the patient's name and a 2nd identifier and accompanied by the appropriate order form:
 - Enteric Bacteriology form for Enteric Pathogens and Norovirus testing: DHHS form # 3390 (<https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/Forms/3390-Enteric-Bacteriology.pdf>)
 - Parasitology form for Intestinal Parasites Exam, Cryptosporidium/Giardia, and Cyclospora DHHS form #1245 (<https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/Forms/1245-Parasitology.pdf>)
- Specimens must be received in the Enteric Bacteriology Laboratory within 72 hours of collection.
- Specimens must be shipped in crush-proof containers. Shipping containers (cans) are available through NCSLPH. (<https://slphreporting.dph.ncdhhs.gov/labportal/>)
- Specimens should be shipped cold with frozen ice packs. (Parasitology samples can be shipped either cold on frozen ice packs or at ambient temperature.)

- To order additional kits as part of the norovirus pilot program, contact slph.norovirus@dhhs.nc.gov
- The NC State Laboratory of Public Health's SCOPE document provides additional information regarding Norovirus, Enteric pathogens and Parasitology testing: (<https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/doc/SCOPE-Guide-To-Laboratory-Services.pdf>)

Laboratory Contacts

- General: slph.norovirus@dhhs.nc.gov
- Enteric Bacteriology: 919-807-8608
- Parasitology: 919-807-8609

