



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Cary Blair Stool Collection Kit – For PCR Testing (GP or Norovirus) and/or Culture

#### SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: Room temperature (15–25 °C/59–77 °F) or refrigerated (2–8 °C/36–46 °F) for Cary Blair Medium

Maximum Holding Time: 4 days (time from collection to test set-up) for Cary Blair Medium

Kit Expiration: Kit must be used prior to expiration date listed on kit label

Exceptions: For any exceptions to collection, storage, or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

#### ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Stool: 5 mL (1/2 teaspoon) in Cary Blair Medium, only enough to reach red fill line

Note: Raw stool in a sterile container is also acceptable. For norovirus PCR, raw stool must be stored refrigerated and received within 24 hours of collection. For culture, raw stool must be stored at room temperature and received within 2 hours of collection.

#### TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

6500: Gastrointestinal PCR Panel (GP)

6100: Norovirus PCR

2200: Stool Culture—Standard (*Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Shigella*, Shiga toxin *E. coli*)

2300: Stool Culture—Comprehensive (Standard + *Yersinia*, *Vibrio*, *Aeromonas*, *Plesiomonas*)

Stool Cultures for Specific Organisms Only:

<u>2220:</u> <i>Salmonella</i>	<u>2260:</u> <i>Vibrio</i> species
<u>2230:</u> <i>Shigella</i>	<u>2270:</u> <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>
<u>2240:</u> <i>Campylobacter</i>	<u>2310:</u> <i>Aeromonas</i> , <i>Plesiomonas</i>
<u>2250:</u> Shiga toxin <i>E. coli</i>	



Yellow vial of Cary Blair Medium



Stool collection device

#### REJECTION CRITERIA

- Holding time greater than 4 days if in Cary Blair Medium
- Specimen container not labeled
- Specimen container has leaked or is not sealed properly
- Sample volume is not at the red fill line on the container

#### SPECIMEN COLLECTION

For best results, stool specimens should be obtained during the acute phase of illness.

1. Lift the toilet seat and place the white stool collection device at the rear of the toilet bowl; lower the seat.
2. Pass the stool into the white stool collection device.
3. Collect stool from areas that appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If firm, collect from both ends and middle.
  - a. Using the scoop built into the cap, transfer enough stool to the vial to reach the red fill line, do not overfill.
  - b. Mix the vial contents with the scoop; carefully tighten the cap and shake until contents are well mixed.
  - c. Label the vial (name, collection date/time) and place inside the inner specimen bag and seal tightly.
4. Place the bagged yellow vial inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.

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5. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
6. Transport at room or refrigerated temperature to the laboratory within 4 days of collection.