



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

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

#### SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: room temperature (15 °C – 25 °C / 59 °F – 77 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 4 days (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory)

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

#### KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (15 °C – 25 °C / 59 °F – 77 °F)

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

#### ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Stool: 5 mL in yellow vial of Cary Blair Medium (enough to reach red fill line)

#### TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

6500: Gastrointestinal PCR Panel (GP)

6100: Norovirus PCR

2200: Stool Culture – Standard (Salmonella, Campylobacter, Shigella, E. coli, Shigatoxin)

2300: Stool Culture – Comprehensive (Standard + Yersina, Vibrio, Aeromonas-Plesiomonas)

2220: Stool Culture – *Salmonella* Only

2250: Stool Culture – *E. coli* only

#### REJECTION CRITERIA

- holding time greater than 4 days
- 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

Preferably, 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 yellow vial to reach the red fill line.
  - 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.
5. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
6. Transport to the laboratory within 4 days of collection.



yellow vial of  
Cary Blair Medium



white  
stool collection  
device