

STOOL COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE for Ova and Parasites (O&P): This test must always be performed a minimum of 2 times (or more if the doctor specifies), with stool being collected on 2 different days. All other tests will be done at the frequency requested by the doctor.

1. After a bowel movement, collect a small sample of feces from your child's diaper. For older children, ensure that the feces **DO NOT** come in contact with the water in the toilet bowl. You may use any clean, dry container or place saran wrap over the toilet bowl to collect a small piece of stool.
2. Place a small amount of stool (about the size of a walnut) in a clean, dry jar with a screw-top lid. Specimen containers may be purchased at any pharmacy or are available at the Pediatric Test Center (room B02.5118).
3. Record the name of the patient on the specimen container.
4. Record the date and time of collection on the requisition.
5. Make sure the container (not the lid) is labelled with your child's complete name and return the sample promptly. If the sample cannot be delivered immediately, it should be refrigerated for no longer than 24 hours. Specimens may be dropped off from Monday to Friday between 7:00 a.m and 5:00 p.m. (room B02.5118). We are closed on holidays. Please be sure to bring the specimen, your child's hospital card and the doctor's requisition for drop off. Do not collect stool on weekends.
6. Specimens should be kept in the fridge until delivered. Ideally, the specimen should be delivered on the same day, as soon as possible after collection.

Please note: The Pediatric Test Centre will accept specimens up to 48 hours (maximum) after collection. However, specimens greater than 24 hours old may be rejected by the laboratory.

7. If the test has been requested more than once, repeat the above procedure for stool collected on a different day.

Each collection must be done on a different day and each sample must be delivered to the Pediatric Test Centre within 24-48 hours (see note above).

NOTE: All specimens collected may contain infectious organisms. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after each collection.
