

## Stool Collection Guidelines

Your child's poop (stool) must be tested so we can plan treatment for them. You will collect a sample of their poop at home, then bring it to a Nationwide Children's Hospital Laboratory Service Center.

### You Will Need

- The right container(s) for the test(s) ordered (examples shown in Picture 1). Not all tests use the same containers.
- A tongue depressor or plastic spoon
- For an older child, a toilet hat (Picture 2) or plastic wrap
- A label to put on the container
- Disposable exam gloves (optional)



**Picture 1** You will bring the stool in a container like these to the lab with the label completely filled out.

### Labeling

You may be given an EPIC registration label to put on the container(s). If not, label the sample as follows:

- **Before** collecting the sample:
  - Child's full legal first and last names, spelled correctly.
  - **One** of the following unique identifiers:
    - Date of birth **or**
    - Patient's ID number **or**
    - Nationwide Children's Hospital medical record number
- **After** collecting the sample:
  - Date of stool collection (MM/DD/YYYY)
  - Time of stool collection (include a.m. or p.m.)



**Picture 2** A toilet hat can help to collect an older child's stool sample.

# Collecting

- Collect the sample even if your child has loose, runny poops or diarrhea.
- Wash your hands before and after handling your child’s poop. Poop can contain germs that spread infection. You may use disposable exam gloves.
- For the test to be accurate:
  - There should be no creams or ointments on your child’s bottom. However, if your child has a diaper rash, it is okay to use cornstarch, petroleum jelly (Vaseline®), or Resinol®. These products will not affect the test.
  - The poop **must not** mix with pee (urine).
  - **Do not collect poop from the toilet.**

Infants	Toddlers	Older Children
Take the poop out of the diaper. If the poop is loose or runny, put the plastic side of the diaper next to the skin. Leave the diaper on long enough to collect enough poop.	If your toddler is toilet trained, you can use a clean, dry training potty, training pants, or diaper to collect some poop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a clean, dry toilet hat to collect poop. Place the toilet hat on the back rim of the toilet bowl, just under the toilet seat.</li> <li>• If using plastic wrap, loosely lay a long section of it over the whole rim of the toilet bowl so poop can fall onto the plastic.</li> </ul>

# Preparing

**Before you put poop into the sample container, see pages 4 and 5 to know the exact amount, timing, and other instructions for the type of test.**

1. Check the label. Make sure it has your child’s full legal name and date of birth, patient ID number, or medical record number. Then, write the date and time of the collection. The sample will not be tested if their name and at least one other patient identifier are not on the label.
2. Use a tongue depressor or a plastic spoon to place the right amount of poop into the sample container for the test ordered (Picture 3).



**Picture 3** Each test has special instructions. Before you put stool into a sample container, see pages 4 and 5.

3. Secure the lid on the container(s), then place them in a resealable bag.
4. Throw the tongue depressor or plastic spoon away.
5. Bring the stool sample to a Laboratory Service Center as soon as possible. If you cannot bring it right away, some samples may need to be refrigerated or frozen.











**If you are collecting stool for more than one child:**

- Wash your hands before getting poop from each child.
- Make sure the label on each container is filled out completely.
- Put each child's sample in a separate, resealable bag.

**Drop-off Options**










- During the day, drop the sample off at:
  - Any Laboratory Service Center or Nationwide Children's *Close To Home*™ Center.
  - Nationwide Children's Orange Laboratory located at 555 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205.
- In the evening, drop the sample off at:
  - Nationwide Children's Hospital Admitting Department on main campus.
- Please do not drop off stool samples at the Emergency Department.
- For hours, locations, or questions, please call Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 or visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Lab).

# STOOL COLLECTION CHART

TEST NAME	COLLECTION CONTAINER	CONTAINER PICTURE	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS	STABILITY *Includes transport and testing time
Adenovirus 40/41 Antigen, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least ½ teaspoon of poop to put in the sterile container.	Refrigerated – 72 hours Frozen – 1 month
Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Quantitative, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 tablespoon of poop to put in the sterile container.	Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated – 7 days Frozen – 3 months
Calprotectin, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 tablespoon of poop to put in the sterile container. When collecting from a diaper, <b>do not</b> take poop that touches the diaper lining.	Room temperature – 4 days Refrigerated – 10 days Frozen – indefinite
Clostridium difficile Toxin Gene	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 tablespoon of poop or at least ½ teaspoon of loose or liquid poop to put in the sterile container.	Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated – 5 days Frozen – indefinite months
Culture, Stool	Cary Blair (green-capped container with red liquid)		Use the collection spork (attached to the cap) or a tongue depressor to collect poop. Put enough in the container until the liquid reaches the red line on the label. Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .	Poop <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.  Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated – 72 hours
	Dual Culture Swab		Push both swabs a little past the butt opening (anal sphincter) to collect the poop. Put the swabs into the plastic tube. The swab tips <b>must</b> touch the wet sponge at the end of the tube.	Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated – 24 hours
Fecal Fat, Qualitative	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 tablespoon of poop to put in the sterile container.	Refrigerated – 2 weeks Frozen – 2 weeks
Gastrointestinal (GI) Infection Array	Cary Blair (green-capped container with red liquid)		Use the collection spork (attached to the cap) or tongue depressor to collect poop. Put enough in the container until the liquid reaches the red line on the label. Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .	Poop <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.  Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated – 72 hours
Giardia/ Cryptosporidium Antigen, Stool	Total-Fix Container or Cary Blair (green-capped container with red liquid)	 	Use the collection spork (attached to the cap) or a new tongue depressor to collect poop for each test. Try to get poop from places that have blood or a lot of mucus. Put enough poop in the container until the liquid reaches the colored line on the label.  The green-capped container has a red line. Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .	Poop <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.  Total-Fix container • Room temperature – 2 months • Refrigerated – 2 months  Cary Blair container (green cap) • Refrigerated – 2 weeks

Please refer to the “Laboratory Test Directory” to review sample collection requirements for tests not listed.

# STOOL COLLECTION CHART

TEST NAME	COLLECTION CONTAINER	CONTAINER PICTURE	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS	STABILITY *Includes transport and testing time
Gram Stain (Stool WBC)	Dual Culture Swab		Push both swabs a little past the butt opening (anal sphincter) to collect the poop. Put the swabs into the plastic tube. The swab tips <b>must</b> touch the wet sponge at the end of the tube.	Room temperature – 24 hours
Occult Blood, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 teaspoon of poop to put in the sterile container.	Refrigerated – 8 hours
	Hemoccult Card		The laboratory or your child's health provider will give you a Hemoccult card and a wooden stick to test for blood in the poop. Use the stick to collect the poop from <b>2 different places</b> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put a thin smear (match head-sized sample) of poop inside box A's square.</li> <li>Put a thin smear of poop from a 2nd place in box B's square.</li> </ul> Close the card's lid.	Room temperature – 14 days
Helicobacter pylori, Antigen Detection, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least ½ teaspoon of poop to put in the sterile container. <b>Do not</b> collect poop that has mixed with urine.	Refrigerated – 72 hours Frozen – no time limit
Ova & Parasite Examination (O&P)	Total-Fix Container		Use the collection spork (attached to the cap) or a new tongue depressor to collect poop for each test. Try to get poop from places that have blood or a lot of mucus. Put enough poop in the container until the liquid reaches the black line on the label. Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .	Poop <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.  Room temperature – 14 days Refrigerated – 14 days
Pancreatic Elastase (E1), Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 teaspoon of poop to put in the sterile container. <b>Do not</b> collect poop that has mixed with urine.	<b>Do not</b> store at room temperature Refrigerated – 2 weeks Frozen – 30 days
pH, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least ½ teaspoon of loose or liquid poop to put in the sterile container. <b>Do not</b> collect poop that has mixed with urine.	Frozen – 24 hours
Reducing Substances, Fecal	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least ½ teaspoon of poop to put in the sterile container. <b>Do not</b> collect poop that has mixed with urine.	<b>Do not</b> store at room temperature Refrigerated – 1 week Frozen – 2 weeks
Rotavirus Antigen, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 teaspoon of loose or liquid poop to put in the sterile container. <b>Do not</b> collect poop that has mixed with urine.	Refrigerated – 72 hours Frozen – no time limit