


















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 stool 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 stool 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 stool to put in the sterile container. When collecting from a diaper, do not take stool that touches the diaper lining.	Room temperature – 6 hours Refrigerated – 3 days Frozen - 16 weeks
Clostridium difficile Toxin Gene	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 tablespoon of stool or at least ½ teaspoon of loose or liquid stool 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 stool. 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 completely mixed .	Stool must be put in the container within 2 hours of collection. Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 72 hours
	Dual Culture Swab		Push the swab a little past the butt opening (anal sphincter) to collect the stool. Put the swab into the plastic tube. The swab tips must 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 stool 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 stool. 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 completely mixed .	Stool must 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 stool for each test. Try to get stool from places that have blood or a lot of mucus. Put enough stool in the container until the liquid reaches the colored line on the label. Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until completely mixed .	Stool must be put in the container within 2 hours of collection. Total-Fix Container • Room temperature - 2 months • Refrigerated - 2 months Cary Blair vial (green cap) • Refrigerated – 2 weeks

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

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TEST NAME	COLLECTION CONTAINER	CONTAINER PICTURE	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS	STABILITY *Includes transport and testing time
Occult Blood, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Use a tongue depressor or spoon (not a swab) to collect at least 1 teaspoon of stool to put in the sterile container.	Room temperature – 24 hours Refrigerated - 48 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 stool. Use the stick to collect the stool from 2 different places. Put a thin smear (match head-sized sample) of stool inside box A's square. Put a thin smear of stool from a second place in box B's square. 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 stool to put in the sterile container. Do not collect stool 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 stool for each test. Try to get stool from places that have blood or a lot of mucus. Put enough stool in the container until the liquid reaches the black line on the label. Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until completely mixed .	Stool must 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 stool to put in the sterile container. Do not collect stool that has mixed with urine.	Do not store at room temperatureRefrigerated – 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 stool to put in the sterile container. Do not collect stool 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 1/2 teaspoon of stool to put in the sterile container. Do not collect stool that has mixed with urine.	Do not 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 stool to put in the sterile container. Do not collect stool that has mixed with urine.	Refrigerated - 72 hours Frozen – no time limit

For more information about where to get a test done or how to collect it, please call (800) 934-6575 or visit NationwideChildrens.org/Lab.