

STOOL COLLECTION CHART

TEST NAME	COLLECTION CONTAINER	CONTAINER PICTURE	COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS	STABILITY *Includes transport and testing time
Adenovirus 40/41 Antigen	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container ½ teaspoon of stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits.	Refrigerated - 72 hours Frozen - 1 month
Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Quantitative	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 7 days Frozen - 3 months
Calprotectin	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Room temperature - 10 days Refrigerated - 10 days Frozen - 12 months
Clostridium difficile Toxin Test	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample, or if the stool is loose or semi-liquid, collect a ½ teaspoon size sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Room temperature - 24 hours Refrigerated - 5 days Frozen - indefinitely
Culture, Stool	Cary Blair (green capped vial with preservative)		Collect stool in a clean container. Using the collection spork (attached to the cap) put the stool in the vial until the liquid reaches the red line on the label. Mix contents with collection spork or cap tightly and mix by inverting several times until thoroughly mixed.	Stool must be placed in the vial within 2 hours of collection. Stable at room temperature for up to 24 hours once inside the vial or refrigerated for up to 72 hours.
	Culture Swab		Insert swab past the anal sphincter to sample stool. Replace swab fully to release preservative fluid and saturate swab.	Stool is stable at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 24 hours when the swab tip is saturated with stool.
Fecal Fat, Qualitative	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container a "walnut" size stool sample. No preservative, swabs, or kits.	Refrigerated - 2 weeks Frozen - 2 weeks
Gastrointestinal (GI) Infection Array	Cary Blair (green capped vial with preservative)		Collect stool in a clean container. Using the collection spork (attached to the cap) put the stool in the vial until the liquid reaches the red line on the label. Mix contents with collection spork or cap tightly and mix by inverting several times until thoroughly mixed.	Stool must be placed in the vial within 2 hours of collection. Stable at room temperature for up to 24 hours once inside the vial or refrigerated for up to 72 hours.
Giardia / Cryptosporidium Antigen	O&P Kit (pink & blue capped vials) or Total-Fix (white capped vial) or Cary Blair (green capped vial)		Collect stool in a clean container. Using the spork built into the lid of the vial(s) or wood applicator stick place small samples of stool in the vial(s) until the liquid reaches the black line on the label (red line on the pink, blue or green capped vials). Pay particular attention to the areas that appear bloody or contain a lot of mucus. Mix contents with collection spork or wood applicator stick and cap tightly. Mix by inverting several times until thoroughly mixed	Stool must be placed in the vial within 2 hours of collection. O&P Kit vials (blue & pink caps) • Room temperature - 2 months. • Refrigerated - 2 months Total-Fix vial (white cap) • Room temperature - 2 months. • Refrigerated - 2 months Cary Blair vial (green cap) • Refrigerated - 7 days

(continued on back)

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Gram Stain (Stool WBC)	Culture Swab		Insert swab past the anal sphincter to sample stool. Replace swab fully to release preservative fluid and saturate swab.	Stool is stable at room temperature for up to 24 hours when the swab is saturated with stool.
Occult Blood, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a clean specimen container 1 teaspoon of stool.	Refrigerated - 8 hours
	Hemoccult [®] Cards		Collect stool on Hemoccult card provided by the laboratory or your child's provider's office. (Collect a small, match head-sized sample of stool and using a clean applicator stick, apply a thin smear in box A of the card. Repeat procedure for box B of the card, using a different area of the stool sample. Close the lid of card.)	Room temperature - 14 days (once applied on card)
Helicobacter pylori, Antigen Detection, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container ½ teaspoon of stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Refrigerated - 72 hours Frozen - indefinitely
Ova & Parasite (O&P)	O&P Kit (pink & blue capped vials) or Total-Fix (white capped vial)		Collect stool in a clean container. Using the spork built into the lid of the vial(s) or wood applicator stick place small samples of stool in the vial(s) until the liquid reaches the black line (red line on the pink and blue capped vials) on the label. Pay particular attention to the areas that appear bloody or contain a lot of mucus. Mix contents with collection spork or wood applicator stick and cap tightly. Mix by inverting several times until thoroughly mixed.	Stool must be placed in the vial within 2 hours of collection. Stable at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 14 days once inside vials.
Pancreatic Elastase (E ₁), Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container 1 teaspoon of stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Room temperature - 5 days Refrigerated - 7 days Frozen - 12 months
pH, Stool	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container ½ teaspoon of loose or semi-liquid stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Frozen - 24 hours
Reducing Substances	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a specimen container ½ teaspoon of very loose or liquid stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Refrigerated - 36 hours Frozen - 7 days
Rotavirus	Sterile Container (blue cap)		Collect in a sterile specimen container 1 teaspoon of loose or semi-liquid stool. No preservatives, swabs, or kits. Do not mix sample with urine.	Refrigerated - 72 hours Frozen - indefinitely

For more information regarding test availability or specimen requirements, please call (800) 934-6575 or visit NationwideChildrens.org/Lab.