



















# Stool Collection Chart

| TEST NAME                               | COLLECTION CONTAINER   | CONTAINER PICTURE   | COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS  | STABILITY<br>*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<br>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<br>Refrigerated - 7 days<br>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.<br>When collecting from a diaper, <b>do not</b> take stool that touches the diaper lining.   | Room temperature – 4 days<br>Refrigerated – 10 days<br>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 stool or at least ½ teaspoon of loose or liquid stool to put in the sterile container.  | Room temperature - 24 hours<br>Refrigerated – 5 days<br>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.<br>Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .   | Stool <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.<br>Room temperature - 24 hours<br>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.<br>The swab tips <b>must</b> touch the wet sponge at the end of the tube.  | Room temperature - 24 hours<br>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<br>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.<br>Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .   | Stool <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.<br>Room temperature - 24 hours<br>Refrigerated - 72 hours   |
| Giardia/ Cryptosporidium Antigen, Stool | Total-Fix Container<br>or<br>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.<br>Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> . | Stool <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.<br>Total-Fix Container<br>• Room temperature - 2 months<br>• Refrigerated - 2 months<br>Cary Blair vial (green cap)<br>• 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<br>*Includes transport and testing time   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Gram Stain<br>(Stool WBC)                           | Dual Culture Swab               |    | Push the double swab a little past the butt opening (anal sphincter) to collect stool. Put the swabs into the plastic tube.<br>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<br>(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<br>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.<br>Put a thin smear (match head-sized sample) of stool inside box A's square.<br>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,<br>Antigen Detection,<br>Stool | Sterile Container<br>(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.<br><b>Do not</b> collect stool that has mixed with urine.  | Refrigerated - 72 hours<br>Frozen – no time limit   |
| Ova & Parasite<br>Examination<br>(O&P)              | Total-Fix<br>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.<br>Screw the cap tightly and turn upside down several times until <b>completely mixed</b> .         | Stool <b>must</b> be put in the container within 2 hours of collection.<br>Room temperature - 14 days<br>Refrigerated - 14 days |
| Pancreatic<br>Elastase (E1),<br>Stool               | Sterile Container<br>(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.<br><b>Do not</b> collect stool that has mixed with urine.  | <b>Do not</b> store at room temperature<br>Refrigerated – 2 weeks<br>Frozen – 30 days   |
| pH, Stool   | Sterile Container<br>(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.<br><b>Do not</b> collect stool that has mixed with urine.  | Frozen - 24 hours   |
| Reducing<br>Substances, Fecal                       | Sterile Container<br>(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.<br><b>Do not</b> collect stool that has mixed with urine.  | <b>Do not</b> store at room temperature<br>Refrigerated – 1 week<br>Frozen – 2 weeks  |
| Rotavirus Antigen,<br>Stool                         | Sterile Container<br>(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.<br><b>Do not</b> collect stool that has mixed with urine.  | Refrigerated - 72 hours<br>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](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Lab).