

Patient Stool Collection Instructions

You have been issued containers (vials) for the collection of stool specimens for tests your provider has ordered. Read the following instructions before leaving the laboratory. If you have any questions, please ask a team member.

The preservatives SAF and FORMALIN are POISON. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. If swallowed, have the person drink a large amount of water and call a doctor or hospital immediately. Save the reagent vial label. Information will be helpful for determining appropriate medical treatment.



Directions:

1. Collect the stool specimen (bowel movement) in a wide mouth container, bedpan, or on a clean newspaper or plastic bag placed over the toilet seat opening. This prevents the stool specimen from falling into the toilet bowl. **DO NOT MIX URINE WITH THE STOOL SAMPLE.**
2. Open the vial(s). Using the collection spoon attached to cap, add stool to container until the liquid level is at the “fill to here” line for green and yellow capped vials. **DO NOT OVERFILL.** If you are using an empty vial, fill to one-half full with stool specimen. It is important to sample areas of the specimen which appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If the stool is hard, sample small amounts from each end and the middle of the specimen. Collect all 3 vials.
3. Replace the cap to the matching-colored vial and close tightly. Mix each vial, by gently inverting the vial until the specimen is well mixed. If an empty vial is used, do not shake.
4. **Label the vial(s) with (1) Patient name, (2) Date of Birth, (3) Date and time specimen was collected.** Check appropriate box on the vial label for specimen consistency. **NOTE: Your provider may order testing times 2 or 3. No more than one set of samples may be collected per day per test.**
5. Place the vial(s) in the original package before returning.
6. Wash hands thoroughly.

Special Collections:

- **DIAPERS:** Scrape stool specimen (bowel movement) from the diaper surface as soon as possible and place into the vials provided. **DO NOT SEND SPECIMEN IN DIAPER. Diaper cream or ointment may interfere with testing and should be avoided.**
- **FECAL OCCULT BLOOD:** follow the instructions in the FIT kit provided.

All specimens **MUST** be refrigerated and returned to any UPH clinic with laboratory services or MedLabs main site within **3 days** of collection. If this is a problem, discuss with a team member. Call 319-369-7311 with questions.

Go to: <https://www.unitypoint.org/cedarrapids/medlabs.aspx> for MedLabs locations and hours.