

Stool Collection

****IMPORTANT**** Make sure your specimen containers are labeled with your **FULL NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, and DATE OF COLLECTION**

Your doctor has asked that you provide the laboratory with a stool specimen. It is important that you follow these instructions carefully when collecting the specimen and bringing it to the lab.

1. When you go to the bathroom, you will need these items to collect the specimen:
 - A. **The “HAT”:** This is a white, plastic collection device that fits over the rim of a toilet seat. Collect the stool in this device. **DO NOT PASS URINE INTO THE HAT.** Use stool collected in the HAT to fill any vials or containers. Use a different HAT for each day of collection.
 - B. **White or Black Capped Vials:** If parasitology studies (O&P) are ordered, a special transport vial (clear cap with red fluid) is used. A collection spoon is provided in the cap of the vial. Add stool to the vial to bring the liquid level up to the “ADD SPECIMEN TO THIS LINE” mark. Mix the specimen with the spoon, tighten the cap and shake firmly. **CAUTION: THE LIQUID IS POISONOUS. DO NOT DRINK OR LET CHILDREN PLAY WITH LIQUID. REPLACE CAP TIGHTLY.**
 - C. **Red Capped Vial:** If a bacterial culture is ordered, a special transport vial (red cap) is used. A collection spoon is provided in the cap of the vial. Add stool to the vial to bring the liquid level up to the ADD TO THIS LINE mark. Mix the specimen with the spoon, tighten the cap and shake firmly. **CAUTION: THE LIQUID IS POISONOUS. DO NOT DRINK OR LET CHILDREN PLAY WITH LIQUID. REPLACE CAP TIGHTLY.** Label with the name and date of collection.
 - D. **Empty Screw Capped Container:** Use wooden sticks to transfer a golf ball-sized portion of stool from the HAT into this container (pour over if liquid). Try to deliver the specimen to the lab within 2 hours of the time you pass it. If possible, collect the specimen just before you come to the lab. **This container must be refrigerated until brought to the lab.** Label with the name and date of collection.
2. **If the doctor asked you to provide 3 specimens, wait 24 hours between stool collections.** Be sure each container has the appropriate date of collection on each container.
3. If you are collecting stool for Occult Blood testing avoid taking any non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications. This includes ibuprofen, naproxen and aspirin. Do not take more than 1 adult aspirin per day.
4. Specimens may be delivered to the laboratory reception area 24 hours a day/7 days a week. If you are delivering a specimen after clinic hours or on the weekend, go to the Sanford Information Desk. Inform them that you have a specimen for the lab, so they can call us to the front. Please wait at the Front Desk until laboratory personnel come out to receive the specimen.
5. If you have any questions concerning stool collection instructions, please call Microbiology laboratory at 701-323-5439 or 1-800-932-8758.