

Collection of Stool Specimens from Children and Adolescents

Instructions

For children in diapers:

1. Line the inside surface of the diaper with plastic wrap and tape in place. This will keep the stool sample from being absorbed into the diaper.
2. Collect the stool sample into the plastic wrap lining the inside of the diaper.
3. Using the plastic wrap, pick up the entire stool sample and place it in the plastic container provided. Screw the lid on tightly to prevent the sample from leaking during transit.
4. Do not include any wipes used during the collection process with the specimen.
5. Label the stool container with the following information:
 - **Patient's legal first and last name**
 - **Date of birth**
 - **Collection date and time**
6. Return the specimen to a Sanford Patient Service Center or Sanford laboratory **as soon as possible**.
7. If you are unable to deliver the specimen immediately, it can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 12 hours.

For toilet-trained children and adolescents:

1. The stool specimen can be collected in a plastic collection device called a "hat". If the stool falls into the water or is mixed with urine, **do not** collect for testing.
2. Have child urinate into the toilet prior to collecting the stool specimen.
3. Place the collection hat on the toilet seat.
4. Ask your child to pass stool sample directly into the collection hat.
5. Using the wooden tongue depressor provided, transfer the stool sample from the hat into the collection container(s). Screw the lid on tightly to prevent the sample from leaking during transit.
6. Do not include any wipes used during the collection process with the specimen.
7. Label the stool container(s) with the following information:
 - **Patient's legal first and last name**
 - **Date of birth**
 - **Collection date and time**
8. Return the specimen to a Sanford Patient Service Center or a Sanford laboratory **as soon as possible**.
9. If you are unable to deliver the specimen immediately, it can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 12 hours.