

**COLLECTION GUIDELINES
FOR MICROBIOLOGY STOOL TESTS**

	REASON FOR TEST and/or TIMING	TYPE OF SPECIMEN and/or SUBMISSION METHOD
STOOL CULTURE Includes Salmonella, Shigella, Staph and shiga toxin producing E coli (0157:H7) (CULSTL)	Acute: Single specimen Carrier state: 1 specimen/ day for 3 consecutive days Shiga –Bloody diarrhea and/or hemolytic uremic syndrome	Stool in ParaPak C & S preservative (orange cap)
OVA & PARASITE EXAM (OVAPPN)	1 specimen/day for 3 consecutive days	Stool in ParaPak PVA-Formalin fixative (gray & pink caps). Note specimen consistency.
OCCULT BLOOD OR GUAIAAC (OCCBLDSG – noncancer Or FCOCBL – cancer screen)	No restrictions--Recommend specimen from 3 successive bowel movements. Evaluate reason for testing after a positive result.	Stool in clean, dry container OR THIN SMEARS on Hemocult card, 1-3 specimens / accession #
LEUKOCYTES (FCLFQL)	Suspected DX: chronic ulcerative colitis or bacillary dysentery	Liquid stool or stool containing recognizable mucous in a clean, dry container
CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE TOXIN (CLOSTXOP)	Suspected DX: antibiotic associated colitis or pseudomembranous colitis	Diarrheal type stool in clean, dry container. Formed stool unacceptable.
ROTAVIRUS (ROTA)	Gastroenteritis in infant or child	Stool in clean, dry container or feces laden rectal swab. NO PRESERVATIVE. Refrigerate and transport on cold pack.
YERSINIA CULTURE (YERCULT)	Single specimen	Stool in ParaPak C & S preservative (orange cap). May share the same ParaPak vial submitted for routine culture.
VIBRIO CULTURE (VIBRIO)	Single specimen. Usually includes history of saltwater / seafood exposure.	Stool in ParaPak C & S preservative (orange cap). May share the same ParaPak vial submitted for routine culture.

◆ 00000000Specimens should not contain contaminants of any kind, including, but not limited to:

- ❖ water
- ❖ oil
- ❖ purging agents
- ❖ barium, or
- ❖ urine.

See Collection Manual for complete instructions on collection and transport.