



Outbreak Stool Collection Instructions General Information

Remember that any cluster of disease should be immediately reported to the state. The Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL) can test stool samples for bacteria, viruses, and parasites. *Different stool collection containers are required for each kind of testing.* In an outbreak it is important to quickly determine (when possible) the incubation period and symptoms to help determine what container(s) (bacterial, viral, or parasitic) to give to the patients for stool collection. Each district should have outbreak kits for bacterial, viral, and parasitic testing. Each kit comes with the appropriate laboratory submission form as well as instructions for specimen collection, storage, and transportation. When dropping off stool kits to patients, please give them verbal instructions on how to use the kit and emphasize the importance of getting stool specimens for the outbreak investigation.

General Instructions for Stool Collection Kits:

- Notify state epidemiology office **BEFORE** submitting outbreak specimens to GPHL
- Each stool specimen submitted to the Georgia Public Health Laboratory must be accompanied by the correct laboratory (bacteriology, virology, parasitology) submission form.
- Submission forms must be filled out as complete as possible
 - Submitter information, including *submitter code*
 - Patient information
 - Symptom information
 - Specimen information
 - Outbreak name (write name of outbreak somewhere on form)—in the future new submission forms will have a field for outbreak information
- Thoroughly complete labels on stool collection tubes; the patient's name and the date of specimen collection **MUST** be completed
- Each stool specimen container must be placed in its individual plastic bag (provided with the kit). The laboratory submission form should be placed in the outside pocket of the bag. Forms placed in the bag with the containers may get ruined if the specimens leak during transportation.
- Keep a list of all the patients/cases who submitted specimens and/or keep copies of lab submission forms
- Send a list of the patients from whom specimens were taken to the state epidemiology office; this will make it easier for the state to keep track of test results.

Outbreak Kits

- Keep outbreak kits up-to-date
- Keep track of expiration dates
- To order additional outbreak kits contact:
 - Hope Dishman 404-463-4626