

How to collect stool for testing

Stool is another name for poop. When someone goes to the bathroom to poop this is also called a bowel movement. It may be helpful to have a lab examine poop to know how to take care of a person. The lab calls what is collected for the test a stool specimen or sample. You are being asked to bring a stool sample from home for a test.

Important: Print your child's name, birth date, and date and time stool was collected on the containers or cards.

- **If your baby or child wears a diaper:** Line the diaper with plastic wrap, such as Saran Wrap®. The plastic will be next to your baby's skin. When your baby poops it will be on the plastic. Scoop the poop into the right container for the test your baby needs. The liquid part of the poop is needed for testing, so scoop that into the container if you can.
 - **Do not** bring the diaper to the lab. Only bring the poop in the container.
- **If your child uses a toilet:** Put the plastic "hat bowl" in the toilet. Your child can go to the bathroom into the hat. Scoop the stool into the right container for the test your child needs. Do not include urine, or pee, in the container.

When you are ready to bring the sample to the lab

- Allow extra time at the lab to register.
- Bring the labeled containers to one of these labs during these hours:

Laboratory Location	Hours to Drop Off Sample(s) at Laboratory Locations	
Milwaukee Lab	Monday - Friday	7am – 7pm
	Saturday	8am – 1pm
	Sunday	9am – 12 pm
New Berlin Lab	Monday - Friday	7:30am – 5:45pm
	Saturday	8:30am – 11:45am
Mequon Lab	Monday - Friday	7:30am – 4:45pm
Kenosha Lab	Monday - Friday	7:30am – 4:45pm
Delafield Lab	Monday - Friday	8:30am – 4:45pm

The type of test your child needs is circled. Please get only one specimen per day for all of these tests **except fat tests**. Label all containers/cards with: child's name and birth date; the date and time of collection.

Test Name	Type of container to use	How to store it
Alpha-1-Antitrypsin	Clear container with screw cap.	Freeze within 1 hour of collection. Transport on ice to lab within 7 days.
Blood Occult	Seracult® Occult card. Samples must be from 3 separate poops. Put the poop onto the card immediately. Label each card with child's name, birth date, collection date and time.	Store card at room temperature up to 14 days. Specimen must be in the lab by the 14 th day.
Calprotectin	Clear container with screw cap	Ambient up to 2 days. Refrigerate up to 2 days. Frozen up to 2 days.
Clostridioides difficile (C-diff)	Clear container with screw cap. Collect on soft or liquid stool. Do not collect on children under 1 year old.	Room temperature up to 24 hrs. Refrigerate up to 4 days.
Cryptosporidium and Giardia	Put stool in White cap "SAF" vial within one hour of collection. Doctor may order 3 tests. The samples of poop must be collected on 3 different days.	Room temperature up to 7 days.
Elastase	Clear container with screw cap.	Room temperature or refrigerate up to 4 days. Frozen up to 14 days. Transport to lab on ice.
Electrolytes	Clear container with screw cap. Collect only liquid stool.	Freeze within 1 hour of collection. Transport on ice to lab.
Enteric Pathogens, Bacterial. Includes Aeromonas, Plesiomonas, Yersinia, and Vibrio	Put stool in Red cap "Enteric Set" vial within 4 hours of collection.	Refrigerate up to 36 hours.
Enteric Pathogens, Viral. Includes Rotavirus, Norovirus, Adenovirus, Sapovirus, and Human Astrovirus	Put stool in Red cap "Enteric Set" vial or a clear container.	Refrigerate up to 36 hours.

Fat (Qualitative)	Clear container with screw cap.	Refrigerate immediately up to 72 hours. Freeze immediately up to 7 days and return to lab frozen on ice within 7 days.
Fat (72 hour total) with diet history	Large plastic container with screw cap.	See statement below*.
<p>*Put all poop for 3 whole days in the large container obtained from the laboratory. At the beginning of a day, start the dietary log and begin collecting the stools (poops). Do this for 3 whole days. If one stool is flushed by mistake, the stools already saved must be thrown away. You will need to restart again the next day. Refrigerate stool during collection. Freeze stool at the end of 3 day collection. Bring frozen stool on ice to the laboratory within 7 days. The dietary log must be returned to the clinic.</p>		
H. pylori antigen	Clear container with screw cap. (Must be size of pea or 1 Tablespoon if liquid).	Refrigerate sample immediately up to 48 hours. Frozen up to 7 days. Transport to lab on ice
Lactoferrin	Clear container with screw cap. (Must be size of walnut or 1 Tablespoon if liquid).	Freeze within 24 hours of collection. Transport to lab on ice to keep sample frozen. Sample is stable for up to 14 days frozen.
Reducing Substances	Clear container with screw cap.	Refrigerate immediately up to 12 hours. Frozen up to 14 days. Transport to lab on ice.
O and P (Total Exam). Doctor may order 3 tests	Put stool in White cap "SAF" vial within one hour of collection. Doctor may order 3 tests. The specimens must be collected on 3 different days.	Room temperature up to 7 days.
pH	Clear container with screw cap.	Freeze within 30 minutes of collection. Transport on ice to lab up to 7 days.
PMNs (Gram Stain)	Put stool in Red cap "Enteric Set" vial within 4 hours of collection.	Refrigerate up to 3 days.
Viral culture	Clear container with screw cap.	Refrigerate up to 24 hours.