

# Enteric Outbreak Kit

Instructions for the collection and transportation of clinical specimens for faeces cultures.

## Obtain supplies, complete requisitions and label specimen vials

1. Remove the appropriate specimen collection vial(s) from the biohazard bag. Do not use expired kits.
  2. Complete an “Enteric Disease Investigation Multiple Specimen Submission Form **OR** public health laboratory General Test Requisition”. Include the outbreak number which is assigned by the local health unit.
  3. On the main kit label located on the biohazard bag, fill in the required information with a ballpoint pen (press firmly). Peel this label off of the bag and place this label on the completed submission form in the area marked;
    - “Label” of the “Enteric Disease Investigation Multiple Specimen Submission Form”.
- OR**
- If a public health laboratory General Test Requisition is used, fill in the required information with a ballpoint pen (press firmly).
  4. Record the patient name on each of the vials used. Peel off one of the four corresponding kit numbered labels located on the biohazard bag. Place one label on each vial used.
  5. Note: The specimen container is required to have the patient’s full name and date of collection or two unique identifiers. The information on the specimen must be the same as the name and other identifier on the test requisition. Unmatched or mismatched specimens will not be processed.

## Specimen collection

6. Faeces specimens that have been in contact with water in toilet are unacceptable.
  - a) Infants/Toddlers (not toilet trained) – Collect faeces sample (bowel movement) from soiled diaper or directly from “potty”.
  - b) Older Children/Adults – Instruct the patient to defecate into a clean container.

## Place specimen in appropriate container

7. Using the spoon from each vial, select different sites of the faeces specimen, preferably blood, mucus or pus, and transfer to the vials as follows:
  - a) Bacteriology - GREEN-capped vial with red-coloured transport medium. A collecting device (*plastic spoon*) is fitted inside the cap. Add 2-3 spoonfuls of faeces. Mix into transport medium. Replace and tighten cap.
  - b) Parasitology – YELLOW-capped vial with clear liquid preservative and plastic spoon. Add faeces up to the line indicated. Mix well. Replace and tighten cap.
  - c) Virology/Toxin - WHITE-capped vial which is empty with a plastic spoon. Add faeces up to the line indicated. Replace and tighten cap.

## Transportation

8. Place all vials in the biohazard bag. Place the completed test requisition in the outside pocket. Do not place the test requisition inside the biohazard bag containing the specimens.
9. Refrigerate specimens immediately. Do not freeze specimens.
10. Send specimens to the local Health Unit or laboratory as soon as possible.

**STORAGE** - Kits can be stored at room temperature until use. **DO NOT USE EXPIRED KITS.**

**TO ORDER KITS or INFORMATION:** Contact OAHPP order desk, Public Health Laboratory Toronto @ 416 235-5937 or order by fax @ 416 235-5753 or your local Public Health Laboratory.