

Para Kit

Instructions for the use of the Parasitology Kit.

The kit contains three SAF containers for parasite investigation and three sterile containers. For a complete investigation, a stool specimen should be taken on alternate days as parasite numbers may fluctuate.

1. Do not take any medication (laxatives, anti-diarrheal Drugs) containing mineral oil, barium, bismuth, magnesium, kaolin, antibiotics, etc., for at least five days prior to sample collection, if possible. These types of medication will affect the test results.
2. Collect faeces in a dry, clean container (e.g. Chamber pot, wide-mouth jar, pie plate, on newspaper, saran wrap on toilet seat). Do not mix with urine or water from toilet bowl as this will affect the results.
3.
 - a) Check that the yellow collection bottle is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full of fluid. If the fluid level is low or bottle is empty, use a new bottle with proper level of fluid inside. Do not drink the fluid as it is highly poisonous and used to preserve the specimen only.
 - b) Immediately after a bowel movement, use the plastic spork attached to the lid to add a quantity of faeces to the bottle so that the fluid reaches the top of the label. It is best to take a small amount from the beginning, middle and end of the specimen as different parasites may be found in different parts of the specimen. **Do not overfill!**
 - c) Mix faeces thoroughly with the fluid using the spork as this will help preserve parasites if present.
 - d) Screw lid tightly on bottle so leakage will not occur. Shake well. All yellow capped containers containing the stool specimen can be stored at room temperature.
4. From the same stool specimen taken on that day, take a portion and put it in a sterile white capped container. **IMPORTANT:** Please keep this container refrigerated before it is submitted. If storage is necessary for greater than 72 hours, please freeze it.
5. Ensure the PHL requisition sheet is filled out completely and correctly (on both copies) including:
 - a) Your name and address.
 - b) Your Doctor's name and address.
 - c) The date the sample is collected.
 - d) Information on symptoms, travel, initial or repeat examination, anti-parasitic drugs taken, etc are very important for the laboratory investigation.
6. Label the two specimen bottles (both yellow and white topped containers) with patient's full name and a second unique identifier. (e.g. accession number, date of birth, Health Card number). **Important:** Specimens received not including the patient's full name and a second identifier will be rejected by the laboratory.
7. Repeat steps 2-6 for the collection of the next specimens on alternate days.
8. Place the three yellow capped containers and the sterile white capped container bottles inside the biohazard bag and close properly. Place your requisition in the outside pouch of the same bag. Ensure all containers are tightly sealed to prevent leakage!
9. Return the specimen promptly to the laboratory or designated location. The laboratory is to forward the sample to the local Public Health Laboratory for testing.

Reminder: Store the yellow capped container at room temperature at all times. The white capped container must be refrigerated before submission or frozen if there is a delay of more than 72 hours.

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.