

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION & SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES FOR DETECTION OF NOROVIRUS RNA BY PCR

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

[HTTP://www.Michigan.gov/mdchlab](http://www.Michigan.gov/mdchlab)

NOTE: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, the specimen will not be tested.

Upon receipt of this unit, place the refrigerant provided in a freezer until ready to ship samples.

General

Collect stool specimens within seventy-two hours after the onset of illness. **Do not pass the feces directly into the container provided. Do not urinate on the feces or into the container. Do not pass the feces into a toilet.** The stool (feces) should be passed into a clean, dry, container that can be discarded after collection of feces. Use a bed pan or a clean, dry, plastic container such as a margarine tub, clean, dry, wide mouthed jar or a clean, dry, milk carton with the top cut off. The adequacy and condition of stool samples collected for investigation of food borne illness outbreaks are of primary importance.

The following directions are given to help ensure the proper handling of specimens. A properly collected, preserved and transported specimen will provide the best possible laboratory information for use in resolving the cause of an outbreak or to prevent further spreading of disease.

Instructions

1. A test requisition must be filled out for **each** specimen submitted. You **must** indicate the name of the outbreak under "Test Reason" on the test requisition as testing of this type **must** have prior approval from the Bureau of Epidemiology (517-335-8165).
2. Label specimen container(s) with the same name/unique identifier used on the requisition(s) with a permanent felt tip marker/pen.
3. Record the name/unique identifier(s) used on the specimen container(s) for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the outbreak.
4. Secure caps on containers with tape to prevent leakage.
5. Place containers, wrapped in the absorbent provided, into the plastic bags, seal and enclose in corrugated boxes supplied.
6. **Complete** and apply return address, Biological Substance label provided to large corrugated box provided and send by the most rapid means available (e.g., a courier) to the laboratory. **Do not ship by U.S. Mail.**
7. If there are any questions or consultation is needed, contact the Bureau of Laboratories at 517-335-8067, or your Regional Laboratory at the number listed on the test requisition.

NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.