

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

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
[HTTP://www.Michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.Michigan.gov/mdhhs)

**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 exactly, the specimen will not be tested.

## **Timing of Collection:**

Collect stool specimens within seventy-two hours after the onset of illness.

## **Patient Preparation:**

Instruct the patient to pass the feces into a clean, dry, container that can be discarded after collection. Do not urinate on the feces or into the container. Do not pass the feces into a toilet. 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. Use a disposable spoon to transfer the sample to the provided specimen container (50 mL tube with screw-cap).

1. Fill out a test requisition for each specimen submitted. Indicate the outbreak identifier on the test requisition. Norovirus testing must have prior approval from the Bureau of Epidemiology. Phone 517-335-8165 for prior approval.
2. Label specimen container(s) with the patient name and a second unique identifier such as date of birth. The name and unique identifier must match the information on the test requisition exactly.
3. Secure caps on containers with tape or Parafilm® to prevent leakage.
4. Place container, wrapped in the absorbent provided, into the plastic bag, seal and enclose in the metal canister supplied. Wrap the test requisition around the metal canister and then place both inside the cardboard canister.
5. Place the canister(s) inside the polystyrene foam box with a cold pack that has been previously frozen (i.e., stored in a freezer).
6. Place the polystyrene mailer inside the large corrugated cardboard box provided.
7. Enter the submitter information on the return address, Biological Substance label and place on the outside of the box.
8. Also label the outside of the box with the green "Refrigerate on receipt" label.
9. Ship and send by the most rapid means available (e.g., a courier, UPS) to the laboratory. Do not ship by U.S. Mail.
10. If there are any questions or consultation is needed, contact the Bureau of Laboratories at 517-335-8067.

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