

Facts

HOW TO TAKE AN ENTERIC SPECIMEN

Enteric kits provided by the Grey Bruce Health Unit normally contain three vials to collect enteric specimens for one client.

The following equipment will be needed:

- 3 Gloves, gown, surgical mask (optional)
- 3 Enteric Outbreak Kit containing at least one green and one white top collection vial (may also contain a yellow capped vial) and Multiple Specimen Submission Form
- 3 Pen

Instructions:

1. **Call the Health Unit** to ensure that an outbreak number is assigned to the specimen.
2. **Remove vials from plastic bag** and check expiration date to ensure quality of the kit.
3. **Fill out required information on the sticker label** located on the front of the enteric specimen kit with a pen pressing firmly. Remove label and stick it on to the “Multiple Specimen Submission Form” in the area entitled “label”.
4. **Stick small number label** on each vial you are sending.
5. **Complete the “Multiple Specimen Submission Form”** with all pertinent information. See other side of this sheet for an example.
6. **Label** each vial with patient’s name and collection date.
7. **Put on personal protective equipment** (mask (as appropriate) and gloves).
8. **Using the spoon from each vial select different sites of the stool specimen**, preferably blood, mucus or pus, and transfer to the vial as follows:
 - **Green capped vial** (bacterial testing): Add 2-3 spoonfuls of stool. Add enough stool to mix with the transport medium to meet the fill line and tighten cap.
 - **White capped vial** (viral testing): Add stool up to the line indicated and tighten cap. Also used for *C. difficile* and *C. perfringens*.
 - **Yellow or red capped vial** (parasitology): Add stool up to the line indicated. Mix well and tighten cap.
9. **Return vials into the centre portion of the biohazard bag** and seal it by removing the blue strip to reveal the adhesive.
10. **Place the “Multiple Specimen Submission Form” in the outer pocket** of the biohazard bag.
11. **Refrigerate specimen** until it can be transported to the Public Health Laboratory. Do not freeze.
12. **Remove personal protective equipment and wash your hands.**

Health & Environment Facts

A few points to remember:

- 3 Check expiry date of vials.
- 3 Specimens should be transported to the laboratory within 48 hours.
- 3 If there is a limited amount of specimen that can be collected, fill the green and white vials first (the yellow vial is for parasite testing which is not normally required for most outbreak investigations).
- 3 Please note the that one "Multiple Specimen Requisition Form" can be used for specimens from different patients from the same outbreak by repeating steps two through six.
- 3 Stool specimens may still be collected even if the client is only experiencing vomiting.

Ontario Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Laboratories Branch		ENTERIC DISEASE INVESTIGATION MULTIPLE SPECIMEN SUBMISSION FORM	
1. HEALTH UNIT RETURN ADDRESS Grey Bruce Health Unit Communicable Disease Division 920-1st Avenue West Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 4K5 (519) 376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456		3. OUTBREAK NUMBER * Provided by Health Unit 2233	
2. HEALTH UNIT CONTACT Telephone: (519) 376-9420 Fax: (519) 376-0980		4. LOCATION (INSTITUTION OCCASION/DAY CARE CENTRE etc) Facility Name Facility Address Telephone: () Facility Tel Fax: () Facility Fax	
6. INITIAL OR FOLLOW-UP SPECIMENS (CHECK BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> INITIAL <input type="checkbox"/> FOLLOW-UP		7. OTHER HEALTH UNITS INVOLVED HU # YY - FILE # IF AVAILABLE If required	
8. SPECIFY SUSPECT/CONFIRMED AGENT OR ADDITIONAL TEST REQUEST 			
LABEL	PHL LAB. NO.	LABORATORY RESULTS AND COMMENTS	
Kit No. 123654 * Patient's Name _____ * Date Collected: / / * Health No. _____ * Onset Date: / / * Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Sympt <input type="checkbox"/> Asympt. <input type="checkbox"/> * Outbreak No. / /	For lab use only	For lab use only	
For PHL use only.			
DATE RECEIVED:		DATE REPORTED:	

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