



Outbreak Stool Collection Quick Sheet

General Outbreak Information

Any cluster of disease should be reported to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) within one working day after the county health department receives the report (A.A.C.R9-6-206F). The information provided at time of report includes location/setting of outbreak, number of cases and suspect cases, the date reported, the disease suspected, and important contact information.

The Arizona State Public Health Laboratory (ASL) can test stool samples for bacteria, viruses and parasites. Every county should have outbreak kits for bacterial, viral and parasitic testing.

General Instructions for Stool Collection Kits

- Notify ADHS-Epidemiology **BEFORE** submitting outbreak specimens to ASL
- Provide one stool kit to persons experiencing diarrhea (≥ 3 loose stools within a 24-hr period). In outbreak situations, stool specimens from 5-8 ill individuals are ideal
- Labels on stool collection tubes must be completed as thoroughly as possible and should include:
 - Patient's name and date of birth
 - Date of specimen collection
- **EACH** stool specimen submitted to ASL must be accompanied by an [ASL Microbiology Submission Form](#)
- The ASL Microbiology Submission Form must be filled out as completely as possible and should include:
 - Submitter information
 - Patient information- first and last name, date of birth or age, sex
 - Specimen information- Date of specimen collection, Specimen type
 - Outbreak Name- write the name of the outbreak somewhere on the form- in the future new submission forms will have a field for outbreak information
- Each stool specimen container must be placed in its individual plastic bag (provided with the kit). The ASL Microbiology Submission form should be placed in the outside pocket of the bag.
- Prior to submitting the specimens to ASL, keep a list of all the cases who submitted specimens and/or keep copies of laboratory submission forms
- Provide ADHS-Epidemiology with a list of names for whom specimens will be submitted to ASL for testing

Instructions for collection of stool specimens

- The collection container should be placed under the toilet seat. If using plastic wrap or aluminum foil the lining should be placed under the toilet seat and pushed down slightly in the center, but not touching the water, creating a 'bowl' in which the specimen may be collected.
- The person should pass feces directly into the collection container or lining. Prior to passing feces, the person should try to urinate so as not to mix the fecal specimen with urine
- After the specimen has been collected, the excess material should be disposed into the toilet and the soiled materials should be discarded
- The local health department should arrange for pick up or have the specimens mailed as soon as possible

Enteric stool kits- Suspect Viral agent

Fresh stool specimens **MUST** be collected for testing **Norovirus, Clostridium perfringins, Bacillus cereus.**

The stool collection kits should contain:

- Sterile swabs
- A collection container or 'hat'. (Plastic wrap or aluminium foil may be used to collect the stool specimen if a hat is unavailable)
- One pair of nitrile gloves
- One plastic spoon or tongue depressor
- Two plastic biohazard bags or zip-lock bags
- One specimen cup
- Absorbent sheets to place in the bag with specimens
- [ASL Microbiology Submission Form](#) and instruction sheet
- Instruction sheet for collection of specimens

Specific instructions:

- Using a plastic spoon or tongue depressor, transfer as much stool as possible into the specimen cup (do not over fill) and tightly close the specimen cup.
- Place the tube into a plastic bag and refrigerate until shipped

Enteric stool kits- Suspect Bacterial agent

Non-fresh stool specimens **MUST** be collected for testing **Campylobacter spp., Salmonella spp., Shigella spp., Staphylococcus aureus, and Shiga-toxin producing E.coli.**

The stool collection kits should contain:

- A vial of Cary-Blair transport media (0.16% agar concentration)*
- Sterile swabs
- A collection container or 'hat'. (Plastic wrap or aluminium foil may be used to collect the stool specimen if a hat is unavailable)
- One pair of nitrile gloves
- One plastic spoon or tongue depressor
- Two plastic biohazard bags or zip-lock bags
- One specimen cup
- Absorbent sheets to place in the bag with specimens
- [ASL Microbiology Submission Form](#) and instruction sheet
- Instruction sheet for collection of specimens

Specific instructions:

- A sterile swab should be used to swab the raw stool. The swab should then be placed in the tube of Cary-Blair transport media and tightly closed. If a swab is not available then a plastic spoon or tongue depressor can be used to transfer the stool to the tube of transport media
- Place the tube into a plastic bag and refrigerate until shipped

*Note: Cary-blair transport media has an expiration date. It is important to regularly check the expiration dates of all enteric stool kits. ASL can provide counties with Cary-Blair media if necessary. This transport media should only be used for stool collection for bacterial cultures only

O & P stool kits- Suspect Parasitic agent

This kit can be used to identify intestinal parasites, including *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Cylospora cayetanensis*, *Entamoeba histolytica*, and *Giardia lamblia*.

These stool collection kits should contain:

- A vial of formalin and a vial of polyvinyl-alcohol (PVA)*
- A collection container or 'hat'. (Plastic wrap or aluminium foil may be used to collect the stool specimen if a hat is unavailable)
- One pair of nitrile gloves
- One plastic spoon , tongue depressor or sterile swab
- One plastic biohazard bags or zip-lock bags
- Absorbent sheets to place in the bag with specimens
- [ASL Microbiology Submission Form](#) and instruction sheet
- Instruction sheet for collection of specimens
- Rigid outer container (cardboard box) to place bagged specimens into for transport

Specific instructions:

- Only **one** spoonful of stool for each vial of formalin and PVA should be collected. The fecal material should be placed in the transport media as soon as it is passed
- The vials should be shaken gently so the stool mixes with the media
- Place the vials into the plastic bags and keep at room temperature. Do not refrigerate
- The transport media for the O&P kits are toxic and should not be ingested or disposed down the drain
-

*Note: The transport media has an expiration date. It is important to regularly check the expiration dates of all enteric stool kits. ASL can provide counties with transport media if necessary.