

GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS (GI) OUTBREAK – STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

If not in a GI outbreak, follow site/region/SDO specific process when submitting stool specimens

- From a clean, preservative-free and urine-free receptacle, transfer stool into a sterile screw-capped container until it is at least one-third full and no more than one-half full. NO preservative is required
- For Outbreaks, provide two specimens per patient/resident.
- Specimens should be transported to Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) as soon as possible.
- If the specimen(s) will not be transported immediately, store stool specimens at 4°C (e.g., in a fridge). **DO NOT** freeze.
- For transport, specimens must be sealed and the container placed in an impervious container or sealed bag.
- Specimens that leak, are damaged, or lack appropriate identification (i.e., two unique identifiers, such as name and PHIN) will not be processed.
- Complete a CPL [General Requisition Form](#) for each test request. Refer to the [Outbreak Cadham Lab Requisition sample](#) for guidance on filling out the form.
- Ensure the Outbreak Code, as provided by IP&C/designate, is identified on requisition.
- If unusual pathogens are suspected (e.g. *Vibrio cholerae*, *Yersinia*, or *Plesiomonas shigelloides*) or *C. difficile* toxin detection is required, please indicate this on the CPL Requisition.
- Further info can be found in the Cadham Provincial Laboratory Guide to Services, available at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/docs/guide_to_services.pdf

