

GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS (GI) OUTBREAK – STOOL SPECIMEN COLLECTION

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

- Collect stool in a 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 containers per patient.
- Label each container with patient information (e.g., Name, PHIN, Date of Birth, Sex, Age)
- Place stool container in a sealable plastic bag (or other impervious shipping container) with absorbent material
- For transport, the sample must be shipped in a transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) regulated box with the correct labelling. An ice pack must be placed in the box to maintain a relatively cool temperature
- 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
- 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 if *C. difficile* toxin detection is required, please indicate this on the CPL Requisition
- Specimens that leak, are damaged, or lack appropriate identification (i.e., two unique identifiers, such as name and PHIN) will not be processed
- Further info can be found in the [Cadham Provincial Laboratory Guide to Services](#)

