
What is a stool collection?

Stool is another name for feces or bowel movement. A stool collection is when a small piece of stool, or sample, is taken from a diaper or before it goes into the toilet. The stool is then put into a container for the laboratory (lab) to test.

Why does my child need it?

A stool collection is a way to test your child's stool for many types of bacteria (germs), parasites and other organisms. These things could cause your child to have pain, bloody stool or diarrhea (loose, watery stools).

How do I collect the stool?

- Check to see what tests your child needs. Make sure you have the correct containers.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If your child wears a diaper:
 - Remove the stool from the diaper right away.
 - If the stool is absorbed into the diaper, it cannot be used for the test.
- If your child is toilet-trained:
 - Use a stool hat to collect the stool. A stool hat is a plastic container to put under the toilet seat to catch the stool without urine.
 - Lift the toilet seat, and place the stool hat towards the back of the toilet. Then, close the seat.
 - Let your child sit on the seat to use the bathroom. They should not urinate in the stool hat.
 - Remove the stool from the stool hat right away.
- You can use the collection device attached to the collection container lid to put the stool in the container. Follow the instructions on pages 2 to 4 to know how much stool to use for your child's test.
- Put **only stool**, no urine, in the container.
- Write these things on the container:
 - Your child's name and date of birth
 - The date and time you collected the stool
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

NOTE: The liquid in the kit and vial is poison. Keep it out of the reach of children.

- Do not drink it. If anyone drinks it, call a doctor or call the poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.
- Do not get it on your skin or eyes.
- Do not breathe the fumes.
- Return unused containers to the lab or your child's doctor's office.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Stool collection, continued

What do I do with the sample?

Follow the instructions on pages 2 to 4.

- Each test is different. Sometimes the instructions are even different for Labcorp and Quest.
- Please ask the care team if you have questions about how to collect or store your child's stool.

Test	Container	Amount of stool	How to store the stool
Culture (using Para Pak)	Para Pak C&S vial (orange cap)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add stool until liquid in vial reaches red line • Put cap on tightly • Shake vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at room temperature • Take to lab within 1 day (24 hours)
Culture (using dry container)	Clean, dry container	At least 1 tablespoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take to lab right after collecting it • If you cannot take to lab right away – keep in refrigerator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White blood cells (WBCs) • Yeast • Occult blood • Fat • Rotavirus • Eosinophils • Shiga toxin • Adenovirus antigen • Cyclospora • Giardia • Cryptosporidium • Fecal elastase 	Clean, dry container	At least 2 tablespoons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take to lab right after collecting it • If you cannot take to lab right away – keep in refrigerator no more than 4 days

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Stool collection, continued

Test	Container	Amount of stool	How to store the stool
Ova and parasite (O&P)	<p>Labcorp: Para Pak (pink and gray)</p> <p>Quest: Total fix container (black)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add stool until liquid in vial reaches red line • Put cap on tightly • Shake vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at room temperature • Take to lab within 3 days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trypsin • Fecal calprotectin • Clostridium difficile (C-diff) • C-diff toxin for PCR • Reducing substances • pH • Alpha-1 antitrypsin 	Clean, dry container	At least 2 tablespoons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeze right away • Once frozen, take to lab on ice • Note: frozen sample cannot be used for other tests
GI PCR	<p>Labcorp: Para Pak C&S vial (orange cap)</p> <p>Quest: Cary-Blair no gel containers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add stool until liquid in vial reaches red line • Put cap on tightly • Shake vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at room temperature • Take to lab within 1 day (24 hours)
H. pylori	Labcorp: Para-Pak (White clean vial)	<p>Labcorp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add stool until liquid in vial reaches red line • Put cap on tightly • Shake vial 	<p>Labcorp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store at room temperature • Take to lab within 1 day (24 hours) • If you cannot take to lab within 24 hours – freeze right away. Once frozen, take to lab on ice

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Stool collection, continued

Test	Container	Amount of stool	How to store the stool
H. pylori (continued)	Quest: Clean, dry container	Quest: At least 2 tablespoons	Quest: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freeze right away• Once frozen, take to lab on ice• Note: frozen sample cannot be used for other tests

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.