



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY COLLECTION AND SUBMISION OF SUPECT NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK SPECIMENS

Diarrhea and vomiting are the predominant symptoms of norovirus infection, with diarrhea being more common among adults and vomiting more common among children. Virus can be present in both stool and vomitus.

Please consult your local health department or the MSPHL Virology Unit (573-751-3334) prior to collecting specimens. Norovirus testing is performed only as part of an outbreak investigation. Individual samples will NOT be accepted.

COLLECTION:

- Ideally specimens are collected within 48-72 hours after onset.
- Collect both raw stool in a sterile empty container and a stool in Cary-Blair media. Raw stool specimens (10-50mL) may be placed in tightly capped EMPTY stool or urine sample cups.
- Vomitus, if collected, should be collected in a sterile container.
- Collect from at least 3 and no more than 10 ill persons.
- Label specimens with the patient's name and collection date. Place in a leak-proof bag and seal.

Note: Cary-Blair media may be dumped out of enteric stool collection cups and used if sterile empty collection cups are not available.

Only stools samples collected in Cary-Blair media are able to be tested on the BioFire GI panel.

Raw stools and vomitus specimens will be tested by Real-Time PCR.

SPECIMENS NOT LABELED WILL BE DISCARDED WITHOUT TESTING.

STORAGE:

- Specimens should be shipped to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible.
- Store specimens at refrigerator temperature (2-8°C) pending shipment and ship on refrigerant packs. Do not freeze specimens.
- Cary-Blair stool specimens that are received beyond 4 days of collection will not be tested on the BioFire GI panel.
- Raw stools and vomitus specimens received beyond 4 days of collection can still be tested by Real-Time PCR.

SHIPMENT OF SPECIMENS

- Place specimens in Styrofoam cooler with refrigerant pack. Refrigerant pack must be frozen when box is packed for shipment to maintain specimens at proper temperature.
- Completely fill out a test request form for each specimen and send the forms along with the specimens. **DO NOT** put the form inside the leak-proof bag with the specimen, as contamination may occur.
- Send specimens to the laboratory via the courier service. <https://health.mo.gov/lab/courierservices.php>

HEALTHY MISSOURIANS FOR LIFE

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for health.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.