

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
OVA AND PARASITE STOOL COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Microbiology Test Request forms for Parasite testing can be found on the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory website: <http://www.health.mo.gov/lab>. If you have any questions about completing the form, collecting, or submitting specimens please call 573-751-3334 and ask for Parasitology.

We recommend submitting a total of 3 Ova and Parasite Kits (collected every other day) for each patient being tested.

PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Ova and Parasite Collection kit includes a 10% formalin vial and a PVA vial. Stool specimens collected in anything other than these two vials may be considered unsatisfactory for testing. It is necessary to use both the 10% formalin vial and the PVA vial when collecting a single specimen (same bowel movement) so that a complete Ova and Parasite exam can be done. Specimens must be fresh when placed in the vials.
2. Please read all instructions before collecting the specimen.
3. **Please label both vials with patient name.** Any vials that are received without the patient name or an identifier will be considered unsatisfactory and discarded without testing. Please include the date and time the specimen was collected.
4. Collect the fecal specimen (bowel movement) in a wide mouth container, bedpan, or on a clean newspaper, plastic bag, or piece of saran wrap placed over the toilet seat opening. These will prevent the fecal specimen from falling into the toilet. **Please do not mix urine with the sample.** Urine mixed in the sample may result in an unsatisfactory specimen.
5. Remove the two vials from the zip lock bag. Carefully open the 10% formalin vial and the PVA vial. **Do not spill or dump out the liquid in the vials.** Using the spatula (collection spoon attached to the cap) add approximately 3 spoonfuls of hard stool, or 5 spoonfuls of soft stool (from the same bowel movement) to each vial. It is important to sample the areas of the stool that appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If the stool is hard, take a small amount of the stool from each end and from the middle of the specimen.
6. Thoroughly mix the specimen and the liquid in each vial using the spatula. Replace the caps and the spatula onto the correct vials. **Close tightly.** Invert each vial until the specimen is well mixed.
7. Wash hands thoroughly.
8. Return the vials to the zip lock bag and seal securely. These specimens do not require refrigeration.
9. Wash hands thoroughly.

Specimens should be submitted to the State Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible.

Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

101 N. Chestnut Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570
573-751-3334