



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

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| Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak (Enteric Pathogen Screen, Reference Culture Identification, Norovirus) Laboratory Submission Information Sheet (LSIS) | |
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| Reporting of outbreak to Maine CDC: | Yes: increased incidence of disease, such as gastrointestinal illness is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report any suspect outbreak to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.) |
| Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen: | Specimen submission not required but necessary to determine etiology of illness. Please coordinate submission of specimens with Maine CDC Epidemiologist according to clinical information and suspected etiology. |
| Required Information: | Information on requisition must include: test ordered, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: <i>Patient name written on requisition and patient name on specimen itself must match.</i> HETL Requisition form available at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/health-and-environmental-testing/micro/download-forms.htm |
| Specimen Requirements: | Stool is the preferred specimen. Collect feces or vomit (5-10ml) in a leak-proof container soon after onset of illness and before start of treatment. |
| Collection Instructions: | Bacterial testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specimen can be submitted in Cary Blair liquid media in a leak-proof container OR as raw specimen. Norovirus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specimen should be submitted in viral transport media using synthetic swabs with plastic shafts OR submit raw stool in standard, sterile specimen container. Please see Norovirus LSIS for more information. |
| Specimen Handling and Transport: | Bacterial testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Stool Specimens in Cary-Blair media should arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Store specimens either refrigerated or at room temp previous to and during transportRaw stool samples must be transported to lab within 2 hours. Store specimens either refrigerated or at room temp previous to and during transport Norovirus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specimens in viral transport media submit to lab at 2-8C within 48 hours.Raw stool should be kept at refrigerator temperatures on wet ice or cold packs. Specimens should be shipped according to Category B organism requirements |
| Turn Around Time (TAT): | Clinical isolates have a 18-36 hour turn-around-time. Samples requiring culture and isolation may extend TAT by 72 hours. |
| Unacceptable Conditions: | Avoid contamination with urine, soap etc. Raw stools not received within 2 hours of collection. Incomplete specimen labeling. |
| Results Include: | Report may include species isolation, identification, serotyping, and additional disease specific results |
| Results: | All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax. |
| Laboratory Testing Fee: | Fees are waived for specimens submitted from an outbreak setting and approved by Epidemiology. |
| Applicable CPT Codes: | N/A Fee Waived for Outbreaks |
| MeCDC Epidemiologists only | |
| Additional Information: | Specific questions contact Maine HETL Microbiology at 207-287-1727 |