



Department of Health and Human Services
 Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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NOROVIRUS	
Laboratory Submission Information Sheet	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	Outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness possibly due to Norovirus should be reported to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	Specimen submission is recommended in outbreak situations.
Required Information:	Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN HETL REQUISITION Requisition form available at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/health-and-environmental-testing/micro/documents/clinical-test-requisition-front.pdf
Specimen Requirements:	Stool is the preferred specimen - Collect specimen in a leak-proof container soon after onset of illness and preferably before start of treatment. Vomitus can be submitted when stool is not available.
Collection Instructions:	Stool should be submitted in viral transport media such as M4, VTM or UTM. Transfer a pea size portion of stool using swab to transport media vessel. For liquid specimen place approximately 0.5 ml in transport media. Do not use wooden swabs. ONLY Synthetic-tipped (Polyester, Dacron, Rayon) swabs with plastic shafts should be used. If viral transport media is not available, submit specimen in a standard, sterile specimen container.
Specimen Handling and Transport:	Consider submitting specimens from 5-10 patients. No more than 10 samples should be submitted unless instructed to do so. a) Specimens in viral transport media, should be submitted to lab at 2-8°C within 48 hours. b) Specimens in sterile containers should be kept at refrigerator temperatures on wet ice or cold packs. Freezing specimens for direct detection (PCR) is not optimal. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B
Turn Around Time:	Results are expected within 24 hours after arrival
<i>MeCDC Epidemiologists only</i>	<i>Contact HETL for outbreak kits @ 287-1716</i>
Unacceptable Conditions:	Specimens received without a form and clinical details, with insufficient material to analyse, collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Specimens in poorly labelled or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results Include:	Norovirus, genogroup II or genogroup I RNA NOT detected Norovirus, genogroup II or genogroup I RNA Detected
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	With prior authorization from MeCDC, specimens submitted during a possible outbreak will be tested at no cost to the submitter, or patient. PCR - \$132.00
Applicable CPT Codes:	83891 (nucleic acid extraction), 83902 (RT), 83900 (amplification), 83901 (amplification)
Additional Information:	For Norovirus specific questions contact Maine HETL Virology at 207-287-1722