



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
221 State Street
12 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak *Laboratory Submission Information Sheet*

| | |
|--|--|
| Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No• 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by a HETL requisition. |
| Specimen Requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacterial testing: Specimen can be submitted in Cary Blair liquid media in a leak-proof container OR as raw specimen.• Norovirus: Specimen should be submitted in viral transport media using synthetic swabs with plastic shafts OR submit raw stool in standard, sterile specimen container. |
| Collection Instructions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacterial testing: Stool specimens in Cary-Blair media should arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of collection at 4°C or at room temperature Raw stool samples must be transported to lab within 2 hours.• Norovirus: Specimens in viral transport media submit to lab at 2-8C within 48 hours. |
| Turn Around Time | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical isolates have a 18-36 hour turn-around-time.• Samples requiring culture and isolation may extend TAT by 72 hours. |
| Unacceptable Conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid contamination with urine, soap etc. Do not refrigerate. Raw stools not received within 2 hours of collection |
| Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report may include species isolation, identification, serotyping, and additional disease specific results• All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax. |
| Laboratory Testing Fee | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$160 |
| Applicable CPT Codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A |
| Additional Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704, Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, and Serology at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706• CT/GC at 207-287-6244 |