

## How to Collect and Transport Stool Samples for Different Tests

You must properly collect and transport your sample for the test results to be valid. These instructions are for the following tests:

- Clostridium Difficile PCR
- Fecal fat screen
- Fecal leukocytes
- Rotavirus antigen test

If you had any of these within the past 3 weeks, tell your physician before you collect a sample.

### How to collect a sample

Make sure your name and date of birth are on the container.

1. Collect a sample by passing stool:
  - Onto a clean paper plate
  - Onto plastic wrap that is placed between the toilet seat and the toilet bowl
  - With a commode pan

If you are collecting a sample from a baby:

- Put a diaper on them inside out
- Line the diaper with plastic wrap

### How to transport a sample

1. Put the sample in a clean, leak-proof container. Write the date and time you collected the sample.
2. Refrigerate, if needed, until you can take it to the lab.
3. Return your sample to the lab as soon as possible (within 24 hours).
4. For fecal leukocytes test: Collect using the O&P vial. Do not refrigerate. Store at room temperature until you return it to the lab (within 24 hours).

Do **not** return a sample that has been touched by urine or toilet water.

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