

Instructions for the Collection of Stool Specimens for Gastrointestinal Illness Testing

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



1. This stool specimen kit contains a vial of liquid (modified Cary-Blair media), a secondary protective white container with a red lid, protective bubble wrap, an absorbent pad, a plastic spoon, and a cardboard box (**Figure 1**).
2. This kit also contains a collection device (**Figure 2**). Follow the instructions printed on the collection device: attach it to the top of your toilet seat, push down slightly to shape the paper into a “bowl”, and pass the feces directly into this paper. Do not allow urine or water from the toilet to mix with the feces.
3. Open the vial carefully. Use the plastic spoon to transfer about a **quarter-sized amount** of feces into the vial (**Figure 3**). **IMPORTANT:** try to sample areas of the feces that appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If the feces is formed, sample from each end and the middle of the specimen. **DO NOT ADD MORE THAN A QUARTER-SIZED AMOUNT.**
4. Replace the lid on the vial securely, and gently mix the contents of the vial for approximately 30 seconds.
5. Write the patient’s full name and date of birth on the label of the vial, and attach a unique barcode sticker from the KDHE Universal Laboratory Specimen Submission Forms (Health).
6. Remove the paper “bowl” holding the rest of the feces by lifting up at its 4 attachment points. Flush both the paper and the feces. Remove the cardboard from the seat and throw it in the trash. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
7. Wrap the vial in the provided protective bubble wrap (**Figure 4**). Be sure that the provided absorbent pad is in the bottom of the white container with the red lid. Place the wrapped vial in the white container, and secure the container with its red lid (**Figure 5**). Do not write on the outside of the white container.
8. Place the white container in the provided cardboard box (**Figure 6**). Place the completed KDHE Universal Laboratory Specimen Submission Form (Health) outside the white container and inside the cardboard box. Close the lid to the cardboard box and secure with a piece of tape (**Figure 7**).
9. Keep the box cold, in a refrigerator, until it is taken to your local county health department. **Do not freeze.**
10. Return the box and the KDHE Universal Laboratory Specimen Submission Forms (Health) to your local county health department for shipment to the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories.
11. For questions about specimen collection or submission, call your local county health department or the Epidemiology Hotline at Kansas Department of Health and Environment at (877) 427-7317.

Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

