

## HOW TO COLLECT A STOOL SAMPLE Infants and Young Children

1. Remove the bottles from the plastic bag.
  - The bag contains three separate bottles (green, white, yellow) and a requisition form which is located in a separate pouch at the front of the bag. When collecting a specimen, prioritize filling the green lid (for bacteria) and white lid (for viruses) containers first, then yellow lid (for parasites) container last to be filled, if there is enough specimen remaining.
2. On the General Test Requisition form with a ball point pen, clearly print:
  - The name of the child giving the sample
  - The date of birth of the child giving the sample
  - The date the sample was collected
  - The onset date or when the child started to feel sick (if known)
  - If this sample is being collected as part of an outbreak, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) will provide you with an outbreak number.
3. The following information must be completed on each bottle containing a specimen:
  - Name of the child giving the sample
  - Date of birth of the child giving the sample
  - Date sample was collected.
4. To collect the sample:
  - If possible, use disposable gloves when handling the stool sample.
  - Put a disposable container such as a disposable pie plate or loosely placed plastic wrap across the rim of the toilet in the toilet bowl.
  - For an infant or toddler who is not toilet trained, collect feces from soiled diaper or potty. Feces specimens in contact with water in toilet can not be used.
  - Try not to collect urine with the stool sample.
5. Using the spoon from the sample bottle, put stool (feces) into the container, up to the line indicated on the side of the container. Place cap on the container and make sure the cap is on tight.
6. Place all the bottles into the plastic bag and return the requisition form to the pouch located at the front of the plastic bag (do not place the requisition form inside the bag with the specimen containers). Close and seal the part of the bag that has the specimen containers in it.
7. If using disposable gloves, remove and discard then wash your hands with soap and water.
8. Put the sample into the refrigerator immediately (Do Not Freeze).
9. Drop off at childcare or make arrangements to get sample to HPPH or in Huron County drop off at local hospital laboratory.