

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

## Faeces culture

All diagnostic faecal samples, except single organism screens, are tested for the following organisms; *Campylobacter* sp., *Salmonella* sp., *E.coli* (VTEC) including O157 & *Shigella* sp.,.

Faecal samples submitted from patients that have a foreign travel history will also be examined for *Vibrio* sp., including *Vibrio cholera*.

Foodborne outbreak samples submitted through the local environmental health team may have additional culture performed for *Staph aureus*, *Bacillus* sp., and *Clostridia* sp.

Additional screening for Yeast sp., and Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) is performed on selected Immunocompromised patient groups under the guidance of the IPC Team.

## General information

**Collection container (including preservatives):** Collect specimens in appropriate CE marked leak proof containers



**Specimen type:** Faeces

**Collection:** Specimen may be passed into a clean, dry, disposable bedpan or similar container and transferred into an appropriate CE marked leak proof containers and place in sealed plastic bags.

Please do not send additional faeces to the laboratory collected within the same 24-hour period as the last sample sent. Additional faeces received that was collected within the same 24 hour period will not be processed.

**Request form:** The microbiological examination of faeces is complex and requires a full clinical history including the possibility of food poisoning, foreign travel with the countries visited and the dates, and antimicrobial therapy, as well as the more basic information. Failure to give this information may mean important pathogens are not isolated.

## Division of Laboratory Medicine

### Bacteriology

**Specimen transport:** If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature

**Minimum volume of sample:** A liquid specimen of 1-2 mL is sufficient. 2 gram (large pea-size) of solid specimen

**Special precautions:** The specimen is unsatisfactory if any residual soap, detergent or disinfectant remains in the pan. Sample should avoid contamination with urine or the toilet bowl

### Laboratory information

**Measurement units:** Not applicable

**Biological reference units:** Not applicable

**Turnaround time for provisional result (working days):** 1 day

**Turnaround time to final result (working days):** 2-3 days

### Clinical information

**Clinical decision points:** Not applicable

(Last updated November 2023)