

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Bacteriology

Faeces Bacteria/Parasite PCR - Serosep DX

All diagnostic faecal samples, except single organism screens, are tested for the following organisms: *Campylobacter jejuni/coli/lari.*, *Salmonella enterica* sp., *Shiga-toxin producing E.coli* (STEC) including 0157, Enteroinvasive *E. coli/Shigella* sp, *Vibrio cholerae/parahaemolyticus*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Cryptosporidium parvum/hominis*, *Giardia* and *Entamoeba histolytica*.

Faecal samples submitted from patients with suspected food poisoning, or foreign travel history to Asia/Africa/South America, will have additional *Salmonella* enrichment culture performed.

Food poisoning samples will also have additional culture performed for *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus.*, *Clostridium perfringens*, atypical *Vibrio* sp. and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

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.

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

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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 2025)