



MONTEREY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
1270 NATIVIDAD RD, SALINAS, CA 93906
(831) 755-4516

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING SPECIMENS FOR VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS.

Note: Ideally, specimens should be collected within 2-3 days of onset, but can be collected up to 10 days after onset. In an outbreak, 4 specimens collected within 2-3 days of onset are sufficient to confirm Norovirus. More specimens (up to 10) may be necessary if specimens are not collected until late in the course of the disease (7-10 days after onset).

1. Collect stool specimen in clean container without preservatives.
2. Write patients name and date of specimen collection on the specimen. Fill out the epidemiologic investigation/laboratory requisition.
3. Place container inside plastic bag. Place laboratory requisition in sleeve outside of the bag.
4. Transport specimen to the laboratory on ice. Specimens can be stored at refrigerated temperature (2-8° C) for 2-3 weeks.
5. Submit the specimen to the Public Health Laboratory (at the above address), Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Contents of Kit:

1. Laboratory requisition
2. Collection instructions
3. Sterile collection container



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