

## Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions R/O Shiga Toxigenic *E. coli* (STEC) (Version 1) Page 1 of 2

Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Stool	Collect as determined by CDE or LHJ	Collect 2 consecutive stools 24 hrs apart and 48 hrs after completion of antibiotics (if given).	Collect stool or swab of stool into commercial swab transport device or enteric transport medium.  (such as Cary-Blair Transport Medium).	Commercial swab transport device or enteric transport medium  (such as Cary-Blair Transport Medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof container.</li> <li>• <b>Rejection Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fresh stool not in enteric transport medium.</li> <li>○ Specimens not received within 72 hours.</li> <li>○ Enteric transport tube that is filled above the maximum specimen line.</li> <li>○ Transport devices that are expired or for which the indicator has changed colors.</li> <li>○ Specimens submitted in a parasitology transport media.</li> <li>○ Duplicate specimens (specimens from the same patient and same source submitted on same collection day).</li> <li>○ Leaking specimens.</li> <li>○ Please see General Rejection Criteria on page 2.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transport:</b> Room temperature within 24 hours of collection. If refrigerated, ship on cold packs.  Ship as Category B.</li> <li>• <b>Storage:</b> If transport is delayed &gt; 24 hours, keep refrigerated at 4°C, and ship on cold packs.</li> </ul>
Rectal Swab (Please see Comments on page 2)					

**General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Leaky specimen.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

**NOTE:**

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.
- Reason for testing at WAPHL.

**Collection kit availability**

- Stool: Available.
- Rectal swab: Not available.

**Comments**

- Food handlers, child care attendants, child care attendees, and healthcare workers require two negative stool specimens before returning to work or child care.
- Rectal swabs: Rectal swabs are less sensitive than stool specimens and are not recommended in adults. Please contact CDE for exceptions and special arrangements.