

## Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions *Staphylococcus aureus* (Environmental) (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Food	ASAP	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If possible send in original packaging or container.</li> <li>• Sterile/Aseptic technique is necessary for handling and packaging food items.</li> <li>• Items must be individually bagged in sterile, leak-proof containers.</li> <li>• Amount: 50-100 grams (1.7-3.5 ounces) of specimen is required.</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport device:</b> Sterile, leak-proof bag or container.</li> <li>• <b>Rejection Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Testing not approved by CDE.</li> <li>○ Leaking or inappropriately packaged specimen.</li> <li>○ Improper storage or shipping conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transport:</b> See storage requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Storage:</b> Keep refrigerated foods at 0°-4°C. Frozen foods should be kept frozen. Dry/canned goods may be stored at room temperature.</li> </ul>
Stool	At onset or ASAP	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sterile/Aseptic technique is necessary for handling and packaging stool.</li> <li>• Do not use transport media or add any preservatives.</li> <li>• Amount: minimum of 50 grams raw stool (about walnut size).</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport device:</b> Sterile screw top container.</li> <li>• <b>Rejection Criteria:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Testing not approved by CDE.</li> <li>○ Leaking or inappropriately packaged specimen.</li> <li>○ Improper storage or shipping conditions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transport:</b> Cold (Not frozen). Ship as Category B.</li> <li>• <b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate, must arrive at lab within 24 hours from collection.</li> </ul>

**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**

Not available.

**Comments**

- Results are quantitative, therefore adherence to specimen handling requirements are essential.
- If necessary, please contact laboratory before collection or shipping for additional assistance.