

North Bay Regional Health Centre

Laboratory – Microbiology Department

Stool Collection Instructions for *Clostridium Difficile*

(An infection, also known as C. difficile)

Collection instructions:

1. Label specimen container with your first and last name, date of birth, and date and time of sample collection.
2. Collect stool on a dry, clean surface such as a disposable wide mouth container, bedpan or plastic wrap stretched lightly over the toilet bowl.
3. Transfer stool using plastic spoon into container. The specimen should be 3 to 5 mL of liquid stool (about a teaspoon full). Dry or formed stool is not acceptable.
4. Replace and tighten the lid securely.
5. Multiple C.difficile stool specimens (no more than 2) should be collected at least one day apart.
6. Place the container into the small biohazard bag that is provided; be sure to seal the bag. Place the requisition separately in the side pouch of the bag.
7. Keep the specimen(s) **refrigerated** until it is returned to the lab.
8. Samples **must** be returned within 48 hours of collection to the lab only and registered during operating hours Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.
Outpatient samples will not be accepted outside of these hours.

**If you need further information, please contact the laboratory at
705-474-8600 ext. 2935**