Specimen Collection and Submission Guidance for Norovirus PCR Test

Molecular Tracking of Norovirus to Better Understand Outbreaks and Transmission

Norovirus Stool Specimen Collection

Required Specimen:

- Raw, fresh stool
- Raw, frozen stool
- Stool in Cary-Blair transport medium

Required Volume:

- Raw Stool: minimum of 0.2 g (a pea-sized amount)
 - Use a sterile container with tight-fitting or screw-top lid.
- Cary-Blair Stool: minimum of 500 μL
- A minimum of 500 μL is required if stool is loose or liquid.

Required Storage and Shipping Temperature:

- Raw Stool: Ship frozen at -20°C on dry ice, or cold at 2°C–8°C on ice packs.
- Cary-Blair: May be shipped cold or at ambient temperatures.

Norovirus Shipping and Labeling Requirements

Ship as: Category B Biological Substance, UN3373 Specimen must be:

- Triple packaged to withstand shock, pressure changes, leaks, and other ordinary handling conditions while in transit.
- Packaged with enough absorbent material such as cellulose wadding to soak up the contents of the specimen container.
- **Shipped overnight** in sealed, insulated containers with cold packs (refrigerated specimens), or dry ice (frozen specimens).
- Ensure all containers are securely closed to prevent leaks.
 - Secure lids by wrapping in paraffin film (e.g., Parafilm).
- Ensure cold specimens are packed with multiple ice packs.
- Ensure transport media is not expired.

Visit DSHS' online <u>Specimen Shipping and Mailing Guidance</u> for more details on shipping Category B substances to the Laboratory. <u>Specimens received out of temperature range will be rejected.</u>



For specimen size comparison, garden peas weigh approximately 0.1g to 0.3g. Image source: pixabay.com





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Norovirus PCR Test

Norovirus Specimens Must be Labeled and Submitted with a G-2B Submission Form

Label Specimen With Unique Identifiers

Every specimen must have at least two unique patient identifiers on its label.

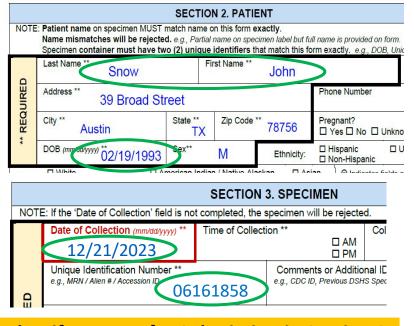


Three patient identifiers provided on this label:

- 1. Name
- 2. Date of Birth
- 3. Medical Record Number

Provide Patient Identifiers in Sections 2 and 3 of Form G-2B

Patient identifiers on specimen label and G-2B submission form must match. Date of Collection must be provided in Section 3.



Select Specimen Type in Section 3

Check "Feces/ stool" as the specimen type. ☐ Eye Swab☐ Feces / stool☐ Gastric (Aspirate)

Select Test Type in Section 4.4

Check "Norovirus" under *Molecular Studies.*

Select "IDEAS (1610)" in Section 6

Check the IDEAS (1610) box as the Payor.

	☐ Medicaid (2) Medicaid/Medicare #:	☐ Medicare (8)
** REQUIRED	□ Submitter (3) □ BIDS (1720) □ BT Grant (1719) □ HIV / STD (1608) □ IDEAS (1610)	☐ Immunizations (1609) ☐ Private Insurance* (4) ☐ TIPP (5144) ☐ Zoonosis (1620) ☐ Other:

Identify Reason for Submission in Section 2

Check "Outbreak" or "Surveillance".

Outbreak Association Θ	
□ Surveillance Θ	

Questions About . . .

Specimen Collection/Suitability: (512) 776-6510

Specimen Shipping: (512) 776-7598 or 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578 (toll free)

Norovirus Surveillance Program: <u>FoodborneTexas@dshs.texas.gov</u>

Submitter Accounts, Submission Forms, or Result Reports: (512) 776-7578 or LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov

