











Microbiology Specimen Submission Guidelines

TEST	SPECIMEN STABILITY	EXPECTED TAT	WHAT TO COLLECT	COLLECTION DEVICE
C-Diff	3 days refrigerated *For best results send sample to lab ASAP*	1 day Testing performed Monday - Friday	Stool Sterile container *Formed stools will be rejected Collection kit available from lab upon request	Sterile container
Giardia/Crypto Antigen	2 days room temp if submitted in Black Total-Fix container	1 day Testing performed Monday – Friday	Stool Black Total-Fix vial Collection kit available from lab upon request	
GI PCR (GI Panel) No C Diff	2 days room temperature must be submitted in Orange culture and sensitivity vial	1 day	Stool Orange culture and sensitivity vial Collection kit available from lab upon request	
Ova and Parasite Exam	2 days room temp must be submitted in Black Total-Fix container	Send out test Results in 7 days on average	Stool Black Total-Fix vial Collection kit available from lab upon request	
Stool PCR (stool culture)	2 days room temperature Must be submitted in Orange culture and sensitivity vial	Testing performed each day	Stool Orange culture and sensitivity vial Collection kit available from lab upon request	
WBC stool	1 hour *send sample to lab ASAP*	Same day	Stool Sterile container Collection kit available from lab upon request	Sterile container
Fecal pH	1 day room temp 2 days refrigerated	Same day	Stool Sterile container Collection kit available from lab upon request	Sterile container
Calprotectin Pancreatic Elastase	7 days room temp	Send out test Results in 5 days on average	Stool Sterile container Collection kit available from lab upon request	Sterile container

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Pertussis- PCR quest	3 days refrigerated	Send out test results in 3 days	NP swab Kit available from lab	
H Pylori	3 days refrigerated	1 day	Stool Sterile container Collection kit available from lab upon request	Sterile container
Urine Culture	Sterile container: 24 hours refrig Transport tube: 48-72hrs refrig.	3 days	Clean catch mid stream urine	Sterile container Or Transport tube 
Strep A, throat	48 hours room temp	2 days	Throat swab	
Strep A PCR- rapid	48 hours room temp	Same day	Throat swab	
Culture, Wound	Swab- 24hrs room temp is preferred Specimen will be rejected if >48hrs old	3 days	White tip swab	
Strep B	48 hours room temp	2-3 days	1-2 swabs of vaginal introitus & anorectum	
Sputum Culture	2 hours room temp 24 hours refrigerated	3 days	Expectorated or induced sputum. Collect a deep, vigorous cough, directly into sterile container.	Sterile container

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Herpes and VZV	7 days Refrigerated	Send our test up to 5 days	Cutaneous or Mucocutaneous swab in Universal Viral Transport/collection kit available from Lab	
Streptococcus pneumoniae Antigen	Refrigerated: 14 days	1 day	Clean-catch, midstream urine	Sterile container