

# Gastrointestinal Tract Infection Collection Instructions

## Supplies

- ▶ 1 sterile thick swab
- ▶ 1 molecular transport tube
- ▶ 1 specimen bag



White  
Tube

To ensure safety and validity of the sample it is important to follow these instructions.

## Rectal Swab

1. Don gloves.
2. Insert the tip of the swab at least 1 inch beyond the sphincter and rotate the swab 5–10 times within an anal pocket/groove.
3. Visually confirm the swab is saturated with fecal material, ~0.5 mL (pea-sized) is required.
4. Place the swab in the transport tube. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten top of the transport tube with the swab remaining in the tube.

## Stool Sample from Bedpan

1. Don gloves. Do not handle the bedpan, collection tubes, etc. without gloves.
2. Open sterile bag and wrap around bedpan.
3. Collect the stool sample in a wrapped bedpan. Verify that the stool sample is not contaminated with urine.
4. Remove sterile swab from collection kit.
5. Insert the tip of the swab into the stool sample and rotate the swab 5–10 times.
6. Visually confirm the swab is saturated with fecal material, ~0.5 mL (pea-sized) is required. If sample is diarrheal, ensure swab is fully saturated with liquid fecal material.
7. **DO NOT provide more stool than required, as the presence of too much fecal matter can interfere with nucleic acid extraction and lead to an inconclusive result.**
8. Place the swab in the transport tube. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten top of the transport tube.

## Stool Sample from Toilet Hat

1. Wash hands before touching toilet hat.
2. Place toilet hat with the round end at the back of the toilet seat (instructions available on the inside of the hat itself).
3. Collect the stool sample in the toilet hat ensuring that the stool sample is not contaminated with urine.
4. Remove sterile swab from collection kit.
5. Insert the tip of the swab into the stool sample and rotate the swab 5–10 times.
6. Visually confirm the swab is saturated with fecal material, ~0.5 mL (pea-sized) is required. If sample is diarrheal, ensure swab is fully saturated with liquid fecal material.
7. **DO NOT provide more stool than required, as the presence of too much fecal matter can interfere with nucleic acid extraction and lead to an inconclusive result.**
8. Place the swab in the transport tube. Snap off excess handle and securely tighten top of the transport tube.

## Sample Note

Stool samples from disposable diapers or undergarments should NOT be submitted for testing as the absorbant matrix is known to interfere with PCR detection of pathogens.



**HEALTHTRACK  
UNIVERSITY**  
Scan QR Code for instructions,  
videos, information, and more!



Getting People Healthier Faster.  
[HealthTrackRx.com](https://www.healthtrackrx.com)

**HEALTHTRACK**

Customer Care: 866-287-3218  
[client.relations@HealthTrackRx.com](mailto:client.relations@HealthTrackRx.com)

© Copyright 2026 HealthTrackRx | INST-Gast-v0526-V4-042026