



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak *Laboratory Submission Information Sheet*

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes: increased incidence of disease, such as gastrointestinal illness is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report any suspect outbreak to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No, however, submission is necessary to determine etiology of illness. Please coordinate submission of specimens with Maine CDC Epidemiologist according to clinical information and suspected etiology.
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: Outbreak number, suspected organism if known or required, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacterial testing: Stool samples in Cary-Blair or raw stool• Norovirus: Raw stool or swabs (rectal or stool). Swabs should be Polyester, Dacron, or Rayon with a plastic shaft
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacterial testing: If possible, collect before start of treatment. Samples in Cary-Blair should arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Raw stool samples must be transported to lab within 2 hours of collection. Norovirus: Submit stool with or without viral transport media. Swabs should be submitted in viral transport media. Ship samples at ambient temperature.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are generally available within 24-48 hrs of specimen receipt.• Samples requiring culture and isolation may extend TAT by 72 hours.
Rejection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a requisition form, clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. Specimens in poorly labeled, unlabeled, or leaking containers. Specimens transported at incorrect temperature. Calcium alginate swabs, or swabs with wooden shafts.• Raw specimens not received in the lab within 2 hrs of collection for bacterial testing only.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report may include species isolation, identification, serotyping, and additional disease specific results• Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$160 (Fee waived if testing is part of an outbreak investigation by Maine CDC)
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87046 (culture-clinical specimens)• 87798 (PCR)
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704• Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706