



**SAN MATEO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY  
TEST INFORMATION**

**Section: Microbiology**

**Test Name: Enteric Pathogen Culture - Isolation**

<b>Test Includes:</b> Conventional biochemicals	
<i>Reporting</i>	
<b>Results Available:</b> 3-7 days	<b>Contact Number:</b> (650) 573-2500
<i>Reference</i>	
<b>Method:</b> Conventional biochemicals, serogrouping	
<b>Turnaround Time:</b> 3-7 days	<b>Reference Range:</b> No enteric pathogens isolated.
<b>Limitations:</b> Isolation of enteric pathogens depends on viable organisms. Stool specimens should be collected prior to antimicrobial therapy. Stool specimens must be in enteric preservative or shipped immediately on ice packs. Preservatives used for parasite examinations are not acceptable for bacteriological examinations.	<b>Interpretation:</b> No enteric pathogens isolated means that no detectable (viable) organisms are in the specimen submitted. <i>Salmonella species, Shigella species, E. coli O157:H7, Shiga toxin producing E. coli; Campylobacter species, Vibrio species, Yersinia enterocolitica, Aeromonas species</i> should be considered significant findings. Significance of other enteric organisms should be determined based on clinical information.
<i>Specimen Requirements</i>	
<b>Specimen Collection:</b> Fresh stool	<b>Sample Type:</b> Stool; rectal swabs
<b>Volume/Amount Required:</b> >10 ml liquid stool; > 20 g solid or semi-solid stool.	<b>Preferred Specimen:</b> Fresh stool <24 hours old; Rectal swab submitted in Cary-Blair, Stuart's or Amies transport.
<b>Collection/Preservation:</b> Collect in bedpan or other clean receptacle. Do not collect from toilet. Place sample in enteric transport vial. Do not remove preservative. Mix specimen with preservative. Do not overfill past line on container. Deliver to lab immediately or store in refrigerator until delivery.	<b>Storage Instructions:</b> Store stool at 2-8° C (refrigerator). Do not freeze.
<b>Causes for Rejection:</b> Unpreserved stool >24 hours old. Incorrect or expired transport media.	<b>Sample Container:</b> Enteric transport container. .
<b>Sample Test Kit:</b> Enteric transport container.	<b>Availability:</b> Monday-Friday Outbreak situations prior arrangements – Saturday and Sunday.
<b>Diagnostic Information:</b> Enteric pathogens routinely cultured include <i>Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, E. coli O157:H7, Yersinia</i> and <i>Vibrio species</i> . Please indicate the suspected organism(s) when submitting specimen. Culture includes the isolation and identification and serogroup/serotyping when appropriate. Specimens should be collected in the acute phase of infection.	



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<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
<b>Request Form:</b> Standard request form or electronically through Invision interface.	<b>Specimen Handling:</b> Handle body fluids using Universal Precautions. Infectious agent Biosafety Level 2.
<b>Transport Temperature:</b> 2-8° C	<b>Shipping Requirements:</b> Hand delivered.
<i>Billing</i>	
<b>CPT Code(s):</b> 87045/87046/87077	<b>Fees:</b> \$35.00
Effective Date: June 15, 2011	