



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

**Section: Bacteriology**

**Test Name: Bacterial Culture, Stool (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, BBL Crystal	
<b>Turnaround Time:</b> 3-7 days dependent on organism(s) isolated	<b>Reference Range:</b> Negative for enteric pathogens
<b>Limitations:</b> Stools must be collected before antibiotic treatment is started for greatest chance of isolation of pathogens. Stool specimens must be in enteric preservative or shipped immediately overnight on ice packs. Preservatives used for ova and parasites are not acceptable for bacteriological examination.	<b>Interpretation:</b> <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 for liquid stools; >20 g solid or semi-solid stools.	<b>Preferred Specimen:</b> Stool in enteric transport media or on ice packs.
<b>Collection/Preservation:</b> Collect in appropriate container to avoid leakage and keep between 2-8°C. If not transported to laboratory within 24 hours of collection, transfer specimen to an enteric transport media before transporting to lab.	<b>Storage Instructions:</b> Keep stools between 2-8°C if not in preservative. Preserved specimens can be kept at ambient temperature.
<b>Causes for Rejection:</b> Unpreserved specimens not received on ice packs or >24 hours old. Received in incorrect or expired transport media.	<b>Sample Container:</b> Sealable container that does not leak. Transport media containers such as Cary-Blair, Aimes or Stuart's transport.
<b>Sample Test Kit:</b>	<b>Availability:</b> Everyday.
<b>Diagnostic Information:</b> Stool cultures in outbreak situations through Health Department DCPU only. Toxin testing for Shiga toxin <i>E. coli</i> is available upon request. Please indicate suspected organism(s) when submitting specimen. Culture includes the isolation and identification. Specimens should be collected in the acute phase of infection.	
<i>Specimen Submission</i>	
<b>Request Form:</b> Clinical test requisition form or electronically through Invision	<b>Specimen Handling:</b> Body fluids handled using universal precautions.
<b>Transport Temperature:</b> 2°-8°C during transport unless in preservative.	<b>Shipping Requirements:</b> Triple-contained and packaged to meet requirements of DOT, USPS, PHS and IATA for shipping of clinical specimens.



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<i>Billing</i>	
<b>CPT Code(s):</b> 87045, 87077	<b>Fees:</b> \$35.00
<b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2008	