

Vermont Department of Health Laboratory
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTION AND PACKAGING OF STOOL
SPECIMENS FOR ROTAVIRUS ANTIGEN DETECTION**

VDHL KIT # 20

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COLLECTING SPECIMEN

In order to comply with postal regulations and ensure the safety of laboratory personnel and those involved in the transport of specimens, and to maintain integrity of the sample, the VT Department of Health Laboratory will accept for testing only those specimens that are packaged according to the instructions below.

The kit should contain:

- Labeled plastic vial with spork (spatula attached to cap)
- VDHL-Clinical Test Request Form (Micro 220)
- Metal inner container
- Cardboard outer mailing container
- Styrofoam container with ice packs (remove ice packs and place in freezer until specimen is collected)
- Collection and Packaging instructions(Micro 419)

Kits can be stored at room temperature until needed (except for ice packs)

Instructions

Patient Preparation:

1. Very liquid stool specimens from pediatric patients can be prevented from being absorbed into a diaper either by placing a disposable diaper inside out on an infant or by placing a layer of plastic wrap inside a clean diaper.
2. Specimens should be collected as soon as possible after onset of symptoms. Rotavirus counts are reported to be highest on days 3-5 after onset of symptoms. Samples collected 8 days or more after onset of symptoms may not contain enough rotavirus antigen to produce a positive reaction.

Collection of Specimen:

1. **PRINT PATIENT NAME AND DATE OF COLLECTION ON LABELED PLASTIC VIAL.**
2. Collect the stool (feces) in a clean, dry container such as an empty plastic food container. Another method is to place a piece of plastic food wrap (e.g. Saran Wrap) over the toilet and pass the stool (feces) on it. **DO NOT MIX URINE WITH THE STOOL OR USE TOILET PAPER TO COLLECT THE STOOL. FOR SPECIMENS COLLECTED FROM DIAPERS, COLLECT THE STOOL FROM THE DIAPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID CONTAMINATION WITH URINE OR THE**

DIAPER FIBERS.

3. With the spork provided in the vial, transfer about a teaspoon or a portion the size of a marble, to the vial. For very liquid stool specimens, transfer 2 or 3 sporksful to the vial. Try to collect any areas that are bloody or slimy. **DO NOT OVERFILL!**
4. Carefully screw the cap on and tighten.
5. Place the labeled vial in the metal container provided, and screw the cap on tightly.
6. Fill out the requisition form completely. **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE ACCURATE AND EFFICIENT PROCESSING OF THE SPECIMEN AND REPORTING OF TEST RESULTS.**
 - * Name and address of health care provider
 - * Patient's name and date of birth
 - * Date of specimen collection
 - * Type of specimen (Stool)
 - * Tests Requested (Write in "Rotavirus Antigen EIA" in the "Other (Specify)" space)
7. Fold the requisition form and place around the outside of the metal container.
8. Place the requisition form and metal container holding the specimen inside the cardboard mailing container provided and screw the cap on tightly.

Shipment of Specimen:

Specimen must be stored and shipped by mail or courier at refrigerated temperature (4°C), but **must arrive at the laboratory by either mail or courier within 72 hours of collection (use the styrofoam container and frozen ice packs). Specimens to arrive the laboratory more than 72 hours after collection must be frozen at -20°C or colder and shipped on dry ice.**

THE LABORATORY WILL DECONTAMINATE AND DISCARD ANY SPECIMEN WHICH IS IMPROPERLY PACKAGED AND MAY PRESENT A RISK TO PERSONNEL.

The specimen may be rejected if:

- * Date of specimen collection is missing on the specimen and form
- * Patient name is missing on the specimen and form
- * Medical provider name/address is missing on the form
- * Specimen container is overfilled or leaking

If you have any comments or questions regarding these instructions, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the front of this form. Thank you.