

Westchester County Department of Laboratories and Research
Microbiological Services
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E-mail: microbiology@westchestergov.com
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday and Holidays
9 a.m. - 12 noon for TB testing

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING STOOL SPECIMENS FOR SALMONELLA, SHIGELLA, CAMPYLOBACTER, OR VIBRIO, AEROMONAS, OR PLESIOMONAS

Note: Multiple specimens from the same individual should be collected at least 24 hours apart.

1. Pass stool into or onto any clean container such as a coffee can, aluminum foil, wax paper, or newspaper. **DO NOT PASS DIRECTLY INTO TOILET OR ONTO THE GROUND.**
2. Using the spoon built into the cap, transfer portions of the stool to the vial (especially areas that appear bloody or watery). Add sufficient sample to raise the liquid level to the red "fill" line.
3. Use the spoon to mix the feces thoroughly with the liquid preservative.
4. Tightly fasten the lid to the specimen container.
5. Write patient's name and date of collection on specimen. Fill out the laboratory requisition.
6. Place specimen container inside plastic bag. Place laboratory requisition in sleeve outside of the bag.
7. Submit the specimen to the public health laboratory (at the above address) within 24 hours of collection, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.