

Collecting a faecal sample during an Outbreak

Standard infection prevention and control precautions apply. All blood and body fluids are potentially infectious therefore all specimens should be handled with care.

- All cuts and abrasions must be covered with waterproof dressings.
- Gloves/aprons worn when in contact with blood or body fluids.
- Hands must be washed before and after the procedure

Step 1 - PREPARATION





As you won't be able to predict when you or your resident will have diarrhoea, prepare the blue specimen container provided by the Infection Control Team by completing ALL sections of the label on the specimen container and the request form, **legibly and fully**, in particular the patient's name, NHS number, date of birth and date the sample was taken **prior to taking the sample**.

Ensure that everything required to take the sample is within easy reach, personal protective equipment and a infectious waste bin for discarding used gloves and any other contaminated waste.



Step 2 – COLLECT THE SAMPLE

The sample can be collected in whatever way works for the affected person. If the diarrhoea has been contaminated by urine **still take**

Diarrhoea may be taken from a pad, bedpan, commode pan, sheet.....		Hold a clean disposable plastic container underneath.		Hold a clean plastic bag underneath.		Stretch clean cling film across the toilet so it sags in the middle
	OR		OR		OR	

the sample.



Use the scoop inside the lid or a disposable spatula to transfer a small sample (1/4 of pot if possible) of faeces to the specimen pot avoiding contamination of the external surfaces of the container – screw the lid on tightly and place in the specimen bag. **Discard and waste, remove your gloves and apron and wash your hands**

Step 3 – TAKE THE SPECIMENS (IN THE LAB REQUEST FORM BAG) TO THE GP PRACTICE FOR COLLECTING ON THE VAN

Step 3a – Where possible, store samples collected over weekend in a sample fridge