

Outpatient Lab Services Four Walk-in Locations

Bring your doctor's order
to any of the following
walk-in locations:



MAIN CAMPUS:

101 Dates Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850
(607) 274-4474
(607) 252-3320 fax
Open Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

EAST CAMPUS:

10 Arrowwood Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850
(607) 252-3725
(607) 274-4691 fax
Open Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

CORTLAND CAMPUS:

1129 Commons Avenue
Cortland, New York 13045
(607) 218-6201
(607) 218-6202 fax
Open Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

DRYDEN:

Dryden Family Medicine
5 Evergreen Street
Dryden, New York 13053
(607) 844-3830
(607) 252-3972 fax
Open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information:

Please call our locations listed above or
visit us online at cayugamed.org.



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Stool Collection



A Member of Cayuga Health System

Stool Collection

What is the test?

Stool specimens are examined microscopically in the Laboratory for a number of reasons. Your physician may want to discover whether a certain type of bacteria or virus is causing an infection in your body. Or, if you have been exposed to contaminated food or water, your caregiver may be looking for certain microscopic parasites in your stool that are making you sick. If your illness has already been treated, your doctor may request a stool sample to determine if the treatment was effective.

How do I prepare?

There is no special preparation for this test. Be sure and tell your doctor if you have recently completed a round of antibiotics or if you have traveled out of the country.

How is the stool sample collected?

Please obtain clean, dry container from your healthcare provider in which to collect your stool sample.



It is extremely important that your container be clearly labeled with your full name, date of birth, and the date and time of specimen collection. If any of this information is omitted, the specimen may be rejected.



If you are undergoing a microbiology analysis, your heal office will provide you with a special stool collection kit in addition to the container. The special kit includes

three vials with tops that are blue, orange, and yellow.

The colored vials contain poisonous liquids. Keep these out of the reach of children. Do NOT drink these liquids.

1) It is best to urinate before collecting the stool sample so you do not contaminate the stool sample with urine. Unscrew the lid of the dry container and place the lid on the counter.

Collect the stool specimen in the container. (Collection "hats" may be obtained from the Laboratory to assist in the collection process.)

If microbiology analysis is not needed, you can skip to step 3.

- 2) Fill the vials one at a time, being careful not to switch the color of the caps.
 - Remove the cap on the first vial. Use the scoop on the cap to add enough stool from the clean, dry container to bring the liquid level in the vial up to the red fill line.
 - Choose fecal material that appears bloody and/or has mucous (*if applicable*).
 - Replace the cap on the first vial and shake it gently to mix the contents. Repeat this process for the next two vials.

Stool must be inserted into the vials within two hours of collection.

If stool specimens are ordered three times, please collect one specimen per 24-hour period. More than one day between specimens is acceptable.

- 3) Tighten caps securely on all containers. Then wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- 4) Place vials back in specimen bag for transport.
- 5) Deliver all containers to your healthcare provider as soon as possible. If there must be a delay in transport, please refrigerate all containers except the vials with the orange and blue tops. The orange and blue vials should remain at room temperature.

Note: Routine ova and parasite testing consists of one specimen, which will be tested for cryptosporidium and giardia antigens. If you are immunocompromised, are from a foreign country, or have traveled to a foreign country and/or worms are suspected, a full microscopic ova and parasite exam may be ordered to look for additional parasites.

How and when will I get my test results?

Test results from a stool specimen analysis are typically available within one to three days. The test results will be sent to your doctor, who will share them with you.