

**Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Laboratories**

Instructions for Fecal Specimens for Ova and Parasites Collection and Submission

Please review the following instructions with your patient(s) to ensure proper specimen collection:

Use the one vial system **PARA-PAK® ULTRA Ecofix**.

1. The kit consists of **one vial of PARA-PAK® ULTRA Ecofix preservative**, a laboratory test requisition, a plastic biohazard bag or 95kPa bag with absorbent material, a fiberboard mailing box and an instruction sheet. Write the patient's full name and/or unique identifier on the specimen vial.
2. Collect feces (stool) into a dry container or on wax paper.
3. Remove the cap from the vial and use the collection spoon provided in the cap. Add a sufficient amount of stool to the vial to bring the liquid level to the **"FILL TO HERE"** line on the tube. To ensure adequate sampling of a formed stool, **MATERIAL SHOULD BE COLLECTED FROM THE SIDES, ENDS AND MIDDLE OF THE BOLUS**. Break up solid stool as much as possible. **Tighten the cap on the bottle securely** and shake vigorously. When mixing is completed the specimen should appear homogenous.
4. Complete all information requested on the test requisition. The patient identifier on the test requisition must match the identifier given on the specimen. For valid results, include the date of collection.
5. **Messenger/Courier by ground transport** Wrap specimen(s) individually in absorbent material. Place wrapped specimen(s) into a biohazard labeled bag and seal securely. Place the test requisition(s) on the outside of the biohazard labeled bag. Place the sealed biohazard bag and test requisition(s) inside the shipping container. The shipping container must be rigid such as a cooler and labeled with the UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B marking. Close securely.
6. **Commercial carrier by ground/air transport** Wrap specimen(s) individually in absorbent material. Place the wrapped specimen(s) inside a biohazard labeled 95 kPa bag and seal following the instructions on the bag. Place the test requisition(s) on the outside of the 95 kPa bag. Place the sealed 95 kPa bag and completed test requisitions(s) inside the outer shipping container and close securely. Label the outer shipping container with the appropriate Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory address. Complete the return address section to include the name of the person shipping the package, business name and address and a business phone number. The shipping container must include the UN3373 Biological Substance Category B marking.

Send to

Illinois Department of Public Health Laboratory
825 N. Rutledge St.
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone 217-782-6562
Fax 217-524-7924