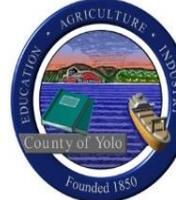


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
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Test	Enteric stool culture
Test Description	An enteric culture involves screening stool specimens for the growth of common bacterial gastrointestinal pathogens: <i>Salmonella</i> species, <i>Shigella</i> species, <i>Campylobacter</i> species, <i>Vibrio</i> species, <i>Aeromonas</i> species, <i>Plesiomonas shigelloides</i> , and Shiga Toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC). <i>Yersinia</i> species may also grow on routine enteric media. A complete work-up will screen for all these organisms. The enteric culture can be modified to narrow the search to specific pathogens based on epidemiologic information. Isolation and identification may require up to 4 days for some pathogens. When requested, a screen for <i>Clostridium difficile</i> can be included. Susceptibility testing is not routinely performed on enteric pathogens.
Acceptable specimens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stool specimens in C&S or Cary-Blair transport medium (preferred) 2. Fresh unpreserved stool in a sterile container <p><i>Note: A walnut-sized sample is an appropriate amount of stool to place in C&S or Cary-Blair medium. The medium should not be overfilled. After adding the stool sample, the contents of the collection vial should be mixed well with the provided spoon or stick. Specimens should not be contaminated with urine.</i></p>
Timing of collection	Specimens should be collected in the early stages of enteric illness, preferably within 4 days of onset.
Specimen storage	Specimens in C&S or Cary-Blair transport medium should be kept refrigerated (2–8°C). Fresh unpreserved specimens must be received by the laboratory within 2 hours of collection.
Specimen shipping	Preserved specimens should be shipped refrigerated, and must be received by the laboratory within 96 hours of collection. However, it is preferable that preserved stool specimens are received within 24 hours to allow the best recovery of pathogens.
CPT code(s)	87045, 87045
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule
Result availability (turnaround time)	Results are typically faxed to the submitter within 2–4 business days after specimen receipt. Pathogens may be isolated and identified as soon as 2 days after culturing. Negative specimens require up to 4 days for culturing to be completed.