Specimen Collection and Submission Guidance for
Norovirus PCR Test

Molecular Tracking of Norovirus to Better Understand Outbreaks and Transmission

Norovirus Stool Specimen Collection

Required Specimen:

- Raw, fresh stool
- Raw, frozen stool
- Stool in Cary-Blair transport medium

Required Volume:

- **Raw Stool:** Minimum 400 µL, but more is preferred.
  - Use a sterile container with tight-fitting or screw-top lid.
- **Cary-Blair Stool:** Follow manufacturer's guidelines.

For specimen size comparison, a single garden pea is approximately 200 µL in volume. Image source: pixabay.com

Required Storage and Shipping Temperature:

- **Raw Stool:** Ship frozen at -20°C on dry ice, or cold at 2°C–8°C on ice packs.
- **Cary-Blair:** May be shipped cold or at ambient temperatures.

Norovirus Shipping and Labeling Requirements

Ship as: Category B Biological Substance, UN3373
Specimen must be:

- **Triple packaged** to withstand shock, pressure changes, leaks, and other ordinary handling conditions while in transit.
- **Packaged with enough absorbent material** such as cellulose wadding to soak up the contents of the specimen container.
- **Shipped overnight** in sealed, insulated containers with cold packs (refrigerated specimens), or dry ice (frozen specimens).
- **Ensure all containers are securely closed to prevent leaks.**
  - **Secure lids by wrapping in paraffin film (e.g., Parafilm).**
- **Ensure cold specimens are packed with multiple ice packs.**
- **Ensure transport media is not expired.**

Visit DSHS' online Specimen Shipping and Mailing Guidance for more details on shipping Category B substances to the Laboratory.
Specimens received out of temperature range will be rejected.

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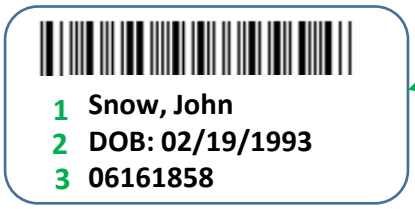
Norovirus Specimens Must be Labeled and Submitted with a G-2B Submission Form

Label Specimen With Unique Identifiers

Every specimen must have at least **two unique patient identifiers** on its label.

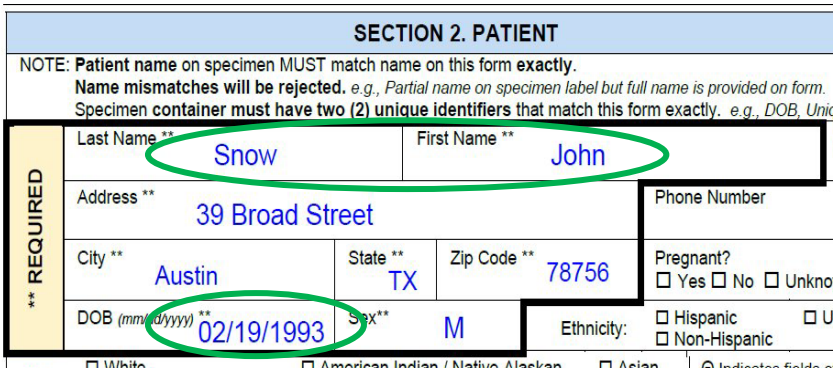


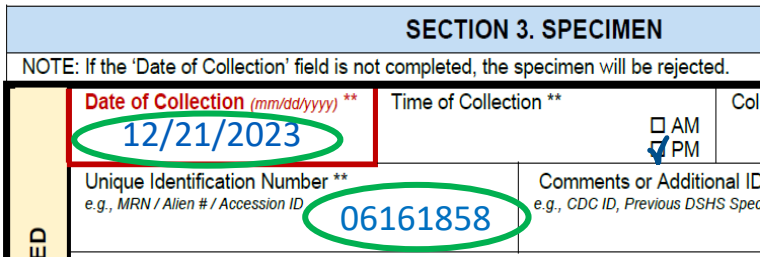
Three patient identifiers provided on this label:

1. **Name**
2. **Date of Birth**
3. **Medical Record Number**

Provide Patient Identifiers in Sections 2 and 3 of Form G-2B

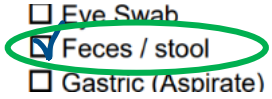
Patient identifiers on specimen label and G-2B submission form **must match**.
Date of Collection must be provided in Section 3.





Select Specimen Type in Section 3

Check "Feces/ stool" as the specimen type.

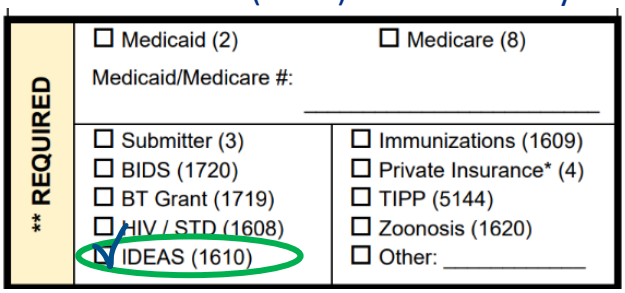


Select Test Type in Section 4.4

Check "Norovirus" under *Molecular Studies.*

Select "IDEAS (1610)" in Section 6

Check the IDEAS (1610) box as the Payor.



Questions About . . .

Specimen Collection/Suitability: (512) 776-6510
Specimen Shipping : (512) 776-7598 or 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7578 (toll free)
Norovirus Surveillance Program: FoodborneTexas@dshs.texas.gov
Submitter Accounts, Submission Forms, or Result Reports: (512) 776-7578 or LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov