

MDHHS Norovirus Testing Requirements

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) offers free PCR testing of stool specimens. Testing is for the investigation of norovirus and norovirus-like outbreaks only and physicians cannot request individual testing for diagnostic purposes. Due to limited resources, testing must be pre-approved by the MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease and the following requirements must be met (contact information is below):

→ **Promptly report the outbreak via:**

- The Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) as “New Aggregate Case” and designating “Gastrointestinal Illness”, or
- Complete the “*Cluster and Facility Outbreak Notification Report Form*” (www.michigan.gov/cdinfo) and fax it, or E-mail it to Jennifer Beggs, Shannon Johnson, and Brenda Brennan, or
- Notify your regional epidemiologist, or
- Call the Communicable Disease Division.

→ **Initial reports must include:** Outbreak identifier, including month and year (i.e., “Smith Reception 05/12”)
Number of ill cases (e.g. patrons, patients, residents, employees)
Symptoms
Onset date
Average incubation and duration of illness
Facility characterization (e.g. school, healthcare center, or restaurant)

→ **Obtain specimen testing approval and shipping instructions from:** Jennifer Beggs, Shannon Johnson, or Brenda Brennan

→ **Collect stools from 3-6 symptomatic cases with onset in the past 10 days maximum.** Specimens should be in a clean, sealable container without preservative (e.g., Cary Blair). Samples must be refrigerated.

→ **Label specimen containers with:** Name and date of birth
Date of collection
Outbreak identifier

***If specimen container is left with a client, ensure container is sealed and properly labeled prior to mailing.**

→ **Batch samples prior to mailing and complete BOL test requisition form (www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab).** Each sample needs a requisition and must be shipped with a coolant pack. Boxes must have a sticker that states “Refrigerate Upon Arrival” placed on the outside of the box. Stickers are provided in the BOL Norovirus Test Kit #5.

→ **Contact Jennifer Beggs, Shannon Johnson, or Brenda Brennan and provide how many samples were collected and when shipment will occur.** Samples must be shipped overnight and delivery must occur Monday-Friday.

→ **Positive results will be released through the Michigan Disease Surveillance System and via fax.**

SAMPLES THAT ARRIVE WITHOUT PROPER LABELING, LEAKING, INCOMPLETE TEST REQUISITIONS, OR LACKING SUBMITTER INFORMATION WILL NOT BE TESTED AND WILL BE DISCARDED DUE TO CLIA REQUIREMENTS.

Important Information

MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease
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Brenda Brennan brennanb@michigan.gov
Phone (517) 335-8165
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MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories
To order Norovirus Test Kit #5:
E-mail MDHHSLab@michigan.gov or
Fax request to (517) 335-9039
*Kits may be ordered prior to an outbreak.
www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab