



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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Test Order Norovirus PCR

Synonym(s)	<i>Norovirus – acute viral gastroenteritis</i>
Methodology	Real time RT- PCR for the presence of Norovirus viral RNA either by PCR or by GeneXpert. Both tests differentiate between Norovirus GI and GII.
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	Stool
Transport / Collection Medium	Collect fresh stool in a sterile container <i>without</i> preservatives or in Cary blair. Note: Rectal swabs are not a satisfactory specimen type.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Raw Stool: Stool specimens should be refrigerated at 4°C until they can be sent to the laboratory. Specimens should be delivered as soon as possible to the laboratory, especially in cases of potential outbreaks. Raw stool can be stored at -70°C or colder for longer periods. Preserved stool should be stored refrigerated at 4°C and submitted to the lab within 3 days of collection.
Minimum Volume Required	For liquid stool: 1.5mL at minimum For preserved stool please follow collection instructions from the manufacturer.
Additional Collection Instructions	Ideally, stool specimens should be obtained during the acute phase of illness (within 48-72 hours of diarrhea onset) while the stools are still liquid or semisolid and the level of virus excretion is greatest.
Additional Required Information	N/A
Send Out?	No
Turnaround Time	48 hours
Testing Restrictions	Outbreaks of Gastroenteritis are reportable under the Title 17, California Code of Regulations. Health care providers must contact their local public health department to report outbreaks.
Requisition Form(s)	https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/Lab%20Requisition%20Form%20-%20Updated%209.6.2024.pdf
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	

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