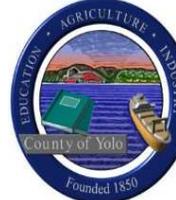


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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Test	Stool Culture for Clearance
Test Description	<p>A clearance culture involves screening stool specimens for the growth of bacterial gastrointestinal pathogens of public health importance, including <i>Salmonella</i> species, <i>Shigella</i> species, and Shiga Toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC). The organism to be evaluated must be specified on the requisition.</p> <p>Confirmation of clearance requires a minimum of 3–4 days to monitor culture growth for <i>Salmonella</i> and <i>Shigella</i> species, although cultures with early growth of a pathogen (i.e., failing clearance) may be finalized sooner.</p> <p>Determination of clearance for STECs can use several methods—Shiga Toxin production by immunoassay, O157 latex agglutination, STEC PCR, and suspicious growth on differential media. Most commonly, clearance takes one day and evaluates a 24-hour culture for Shiga Toxin production. Timing of clearance may be extended beyond one day if other detection methods are needed.</p> <p><i>Note: Specimens submitted for clearance must show growth of normal enteric flora to confirm that pathogens are absent once the digestive tract is recolonized and that specimen transport and storage were appropriate. If no growth is observed, the specimen will be reported as “Unsatisfactory” and another specimen will be requested. Recolonization of the intestinal tract may take several weeks in patients who have undergone antibiotic treatment.</i></p> <p><i>Two specimens, showing no growth of pathogens and collected >24 hours apart, are necessary to complete a clearance protocol.</i></p>
Acceptable specimen	<p>1. Stool specimens in C&S or Cary-Blair transport medium</p> <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>
Specimen storage	Specimens in C&S or Cary-Blair transport medium should be kept refrigerated (2–8°C).
Specimen shipping	Specimens in preservative 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	87045
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule

**Result availability
(turnaround time)**

Results are typically faxed to the submitter within 1–4 business days after specimen receipt. Negative specimens require from 1–3 days (STECs) to 3–4 days (*Salmonella*, *Shigella*) for culturing to be completed.