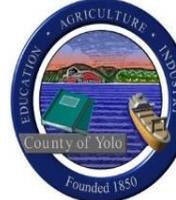


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**  
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<b>Test</b>	Ova and Parasites (stool)
<b>Test Description</b>	<p>Ova and parasite testing uses microscopic analysis of stool specimens to detect potential parasitic infections caused by gastrointestinal helminths and protozoans. The Ova set-up identifies eggs and larva from gastrointestinal helminths, including <i>Ascaris</i>, <i>Trichuris</i>, <i>Taenia</i>, and <i>Hymenolepis</i> species. The Parasite set-up identifies gastrointestinal amoeba, flagellates, and ciliates, such as <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>, <i>Dientamoeba fragilis</i>, and <i>Giardia lamblia</i>. Enumeration of observed eggs and/or parasites is performed.</p> <p><i>Note: If Cryptosporidium or Giardia are strongly suspected, ordering a Cryptosporidium/Giardia test is recommended.</i></p>
<b>Acceptable specimens</b>	<p>1. Fresh stool specimens placed in 10% buffered neutral formalin (pink O&amp;P container) and Zinc-PVA fixative (grey O&amp;P container)</p> <p><i>Note: A walnut-sized or 5 mL sample is an appropriate amount of stool to place in the O&amp;P preservative containers. 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>
<b>Timing of collection</b>	A series of three stools can be collected on alternate days to improve recovery because shedding of eggs/parasites in stool occurs on a cyclic basis over approximately 10 days.
<b>Specimen storage</b>	Specimens in O&P preservative containers should be kept at room temperature.
<b>Specimen shipping</b>	Preserved specimens in O&P containers should be shipped at room temperature and received by the laboratory within 7 days of collection.
<b>CPT codes</b>	87177 (ova), 87209 (parasites)
<b>Test fee</b>	Refer to the posted fee schedule
<b>Result availability (turnaround time)</b>	Results are typically available within 1 week after specimen receipt.