

Laboratory Technical Bulletin

***Clostridioides difficile* (formerly *Clostridium difficile*) Toxin by PCR Specimen Transport**

Effective Date: Oct. 1, 2024

In an effort to improve the detection of toxigenic *Clostridioides difficile* and to align with manufacturers recommendation for laboratory testing, the McLaren Microbiology laboratory is recommending that all stools for C diff Toxin testing be transported to MML Corporate refrigerated.

Appropriate Specimen Collection

- Collect the liquid (unformed) stool specimen in a clean container without preservatives.
- Specimens for C.diff PCR testing are stable at room temperature (20 – 30 °C) for up to 24 hours or 5 days at 2 – 8 °C, however the C diff toxin is not stable at room temperature and should be refrigerated within 2 hours of collection.
- Specimens transported to the local lab at room temperature (20 – 30 °C) for processing are to be refrigerated (2-8 C) upon receipt.
- Stool specimens should be transported to MML refrigerated (2–8 °C).

Additional Information

- Stools that do not conform to the shape of the container will not be tested.
- Specimens placed in any type of transport medium or preservative will not be tested.
- Stool specimens from a patient who had a C diff test within 7 days will be rejected and will not be tested.

For questions, please call:

- MML Client Services 810-396-5715
- Corporate Microbiology Lab 810-396-5755

Date submitted: Oct 1, 2024

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