

# California Department of Public Health – Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory CALICINET OUTBREAK SUPPORT CENTER SPECIMEN SUBMITTAL FORM

Both sides of this submittal form must be completed and sent with the samples for Norovirus testing.

Name of institution/CITY/County: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of institution/setting (e.g. long term care facility, school, camp, restaurant, hospital, jail, cruise ship, catered event, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of residents/students/population-at-risk (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of staff (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first case: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of last case: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Route of transmission:  Food-borne  Water-borne  Person-to-person  Imported/travel  Unknown

If source identified, note any additional information available:

Total number of clinical cases: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of cases hospitalized: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of fatal cases: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of cases tested: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of laboratory-confirmed cases: \_\_\_\_\_

Tested for bacteria?  Yes  No Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Tested for ova and parasites?  Yes  No Results: \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for Submitting Stool Samples

### Timing

Ideally, stool specimens should be obtained during the acute phase of illness (within 48-72 hours of diarrhea onset) while stools are still liquid or semisolid because the level of excretion is greatest then. The increased sensitivity of molecular assays (PCR) often allows the virus to be detected in stools collected up to 7-10 days after onset. For specimens collected late in illness, the utility of viral diagnosis and interpretation of test results should be discussed with laboratory personnel before tests are conducted.

### Number of Samples

For meaningful laboratory results (see interpretation below) specimens from a minimum of four (4) and preferably more, up to a maximum of ten (10) ill persons should be obtained during the acute phase of illness. The greater the number of stool samples submitted (up to a maximum of 10), the more meaningful the test results.

- A single stool sample will not be tested since neither a positive nor negative result will be meaningful.
- Testing of asymptomatic cases is not encouraged without prior consultation.

### Storage and Transportation

Stool specimens should be kept refrigerated at 4°C until they can be sent to the laboratory. Samples stored at this temperature can be kept for 2-3 weeks without compromising diagnostic yield. Samples should be frozen if they cannot be shipped to the laboratory within 3 weeks.

### Interpretation of Results

**Note:** norovirus PCR testing is intended for use primarily as laboratory support for epidemiological investigations.

We recommend that the following interpretative guidelines be used to evaluate laboratory PCR results:

- POSITIVE - Norovirus can be considered to be the etiologic agent if norovirus nucleic acid is detected in two (2) or more stools per outbreak.
- NEGATIVE - To be considered negative for Norovirus, at least four (4) or more acute stool samples (all collected with 7-10 days of onset of diarrhea) must be submitted and all must be negative for norovirus nucleic acid.
- INCONCLUSIVE – All other outcomes.

**California Department of Public Health – Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory  
CALICINET OUTBREAK SUPPORT CENTER SPECIMEN SUBMITTAL FORM**

Name of Facility, City, County, State:
--

**USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH OUTBREAK**

VRDL Patient Accession # (For VRDL Use Only)	Patient Name- Last, First	Sex M F	DOB	Date of Diarrhea Onset	Date Stool Collected	GI or GII	CT value	Date tested

<b>Summary of Norovirus PCR Results</b>	
Number of stools where nucleic acid was <b>DETECTED</b> ==>	
Number of stools where nucleic acid was not detected ==>	
Number of stools with <u>inconclusive</u> PCR results =====>	
Number of stools <u>unsatisfactory</u> for testing =====>	

<b>Report Date</b>

--

David Schnurr PhD, Chief  
 California Department of Public Health  
 Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory  
 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Richmond, CA 94804  
 Phone (510) 307-8575 Fax (510) 307-8599

Submitter, Please Enter Your Complete Mailing Address in the Box above