



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
101 Grove Street, Room 419
San Francisco, CA 94102
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Test Order Norovirus PCR

Synonym(s)	<i>Norovirus – acute viral gastroenteritis</i>
Methodology	Real time reverse transcriptase PCR for the presence of Norovirus viral RNA
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	Stool
Transport / Collection Medium	Collect fresh stool in a sterile container <i>without</i> preservatives. Note: Rectal swabs are not a satisfactory specimen type.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	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. Store at -70°C or colder for longer periods.
Minimum Volume Required	For liquid stool: 1.5mL at minimum
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	5 business days
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. Please contact San Francisco Communicable Disease Control at 415-554-2830 prior to submitting samples to the laboratory.
Requisition Form(s)	http://sfcdcp.org/document.html?id=1035
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	

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