

Stool analysis

Parasite screening



Your doctor has ordered a stool test to screen for parasites. This sheet explains the test and the steps you need to follow to collect your stool.

Why do I need to have this test?

Your doctor thinks you may have a disease caused by a parasite. The most common signs are:

- diarrhea that lasts a long time
- stomach aches
- blood or mucus in the stool
- nausea or vomiting
- gas (flatulence)
- weight loss

The test results can help to identify the exact problem or to decide on a treatment.



What does parasite screening involve?

It involves collecting a small amount of your stool and testing it in a laboratory. This is done to see if your digestive tract contains parasites or their eggs.

How do I get a container for the sample collection?

Go to the CHUM Test Centre with your doctor's requisition form and your health insurance card. You'll be given **3 containers** to collect your stool.

Pavilion D, 1st Floor, Room D0141
1000 Saint-Denis Street, Montreal H2X 0C1

Business hours are 6:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
 Monday to Friday, except holidays.



CAUTION

The liquid in the containers is toxic. You must not drink it or throw it away.

Are there any precautions to take BEFORE collecting the sample?

- Don't take any laxative, anti-diarrhea medication, or antacid for 24 hours before the sample collection.
- The stool must not touch your urine, the toilet bowl, or the toilet water.

What equipment will I need?



What is the procedure for collecting stool?

You need to collect **3 samples within 3 days, maximum. Wait 12 to 24 hours** between each collection. Here are the steps for collecting the stool:

1 Write on the container label:

- your first name
- your family name
- your health insurance number
- the date and time of the stool collection

2 Put on gloves



3 Prepare for the stool collection as follows:

Place 2 sheets of plastic wrap over the toilet bowl under the seat. Leave it just loose enough to form a kind of bowl. If you're using a bowl, pass your stool directly into it.



4 Fill the container with stool up to the black like, using the spoon glued to the cover. If the stool is too watery, use a clean soup spoon.

5 Close the lid and shake well.

6 Put the remaining stool in the toilet and toss the bowl or plastic wrap into the trash. Remove the gloves and wash your hands.



7 Keep the container at room temperature (don't put it in the fridge).

Repeat all the steps for the second and third collection. Remember: you have a maximum of 3 days to do them.



If these instructions are not carefully followed, the laboratory could refuse to take your sample. You would then have to redo the test.

Where should I take the samples?

Take them to the CHUM Test Centre **no later than 24 hours after the third collection.**

Remember to bring your doctor's requisition and your health insurance card.

When will I have my results?

The CHUM laboratories need at least 2 weeks to do the analysis. Your doctor will follow up with you when the results are ready.



Questions



Resource people and contacts



USEFUL RESOURCES

Other CHUM health fact sheets are available. Ask your care team which fact sheets can help you.



You can also read them online. chumontreal.qc.ca/fiches-sante

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To find out more about the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal chumontreal.qc.ca

