

# FAECES – Enteric Pathogen Laboratory Testing Guide

## Severity and Public Health Risk Factors and Laboratory Testing Recommended

Risk Factors	Suggested First Line Tests			Notes
	Culture	Giardia/ Crypto	<i>C. difficile</i>	
Public Health (PH) Severity (S)				
<b>No Risk Factors</b>	<b>No lab testing required</b>			
Food Handler (PH)	✓			
Childcare attendance (PH)	✓	✓		
Rural# (PH)	✓	✓		
Raw seafood (PH)	✓			
Overseas travel (PH)	✓	✓		Countries visited
Age <5 (S)	✓			
Age >70 (S)	✓			
Recent Antibiotics or chemotherapy (S)			✓	
Bloody diarrhoea (S)	✓			
Immunocompromised* (S)	✓	✓		
Persistent diarrhoea <sup>§</sup> (S)	✓	✓		

# The "Rural" risk category includes patients who have been on **camping trips, farm visits**, those with **untreated water supply**.

\* The **immunocompromised** cohort includes those patients that are **pregnant**.

§ **Persistent diarrhoea** is defined as diarrhoea of **at least one week** duration.

**Note:** Samples for Public Health reasons will be tested, i.e. clearance testing, patients that are part of an "outbreak" cluster.

Adapted from: [http://www.bpac.org.nz/resources/campaign/diarrhoea/bpac\\_investigating\\_diarrhoea\\_2008\\_vv.pdf](http://www.bpac.org.nz/resources/campaign/diarrhoea/bpac_investigating_diarrhoea_2008_vv.pdf)

**If no risk factors are detailed on the request form, then the specimen will be rejected.**