

FAECES – Enteric Pathogen Laboratory Testing Guide

Severity & Public Health Risk Factors, Recommendations for Laboratory Testing

	Suggested First Line Tests			Notes
	Enteric Bacterial Molecular	Giardia / Crypto	<i>C. difficile</i>	
No Risk Factors	No test	No test	No test	
Risk Factors Recommended Testing				
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)			✓	
Recent Hospitalisation (S)			(✓)	Only if clinically indicated and specifically requested.
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) (S)	✓		(✓)	<i>C. difficile</i> only if clinically indicated and specifically requested.
Bloody diarrhoea (S)	✓			
Immunocompromised* (S)	✓	✓		
Persistent diarrhoea [§] (S)	✓	✓		
Public Health (PH), Severity (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, e.g. patients that are part of an “outbreak” cluster.

References: <https://lab.waikatodhb.health.nz/assets/Guidelines/DHB-Shared-Services-Laboratory-Test-Guidelines-2013.pdf> pages 45 to 47.
<https://bpac.org.nz/BT/2014/February/rural-infections.aspx>
<https://bpac.org.nz/antibiotics/guide.aspx>

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