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# Memo

**To:** Submitters of Enteric Bacteriology Specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

**From:** William A. Glover II, Ph.D., D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)  
Assistant Laboratory Director, Infectious Diseases

**Date:** August 14, 2023

**Re:** Testing Change for positive Culture-Independent Diagnostic Test (CIDT) stool specimens

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The Microbiology Unit at the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) has completed a quality improvement initiative pertaining to the submission of positive culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT) stools. This initiative was part of a broader effort focused on specimen acceptability and evaluated the ability to successfully recover isolates from positive CIDT stools submitted to NCSLPH.

**Effective August 14, 2023**, the NCSLPH will begin to accept positive CIDT stool specimens for surveillance purposes only when packaged and shipped correctly up to **7 days** from the date of collection. Acceptable specimens must be received by NCSLPH in enteric transport media ambient or cold on frozen ice packs (shipped at 1 to 8°C). Specimens must be packaged and shipped UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B with a completed SLPH **Enteric Bacteriology Form 3390** with CIDT marked “**Yes**” under **Specimen Type**.

There are no changes to specimen collection or submission procedures for diagnostic clinical specimens for enteric pathogens. Additional information about specimen submission criteria and shipping can be found in Appendix A in the [NCSLPH SCOPE: A Guide to Laboratory Services document](#).

For questions, please contact Thomas Lawson, Microbiology Unit Manager, at [thomas.lawson@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:thomas.lawson@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-807-8803, or Joanne Touchberry, Enteric Bacteriology Supervisor, at [joanne.touchberry@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:joanne.touchberry@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-807-8793.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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