



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: Submitters to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health
From: Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB), Public Health Laboratory Director
Date: July 22, 2026
Re: Foodborne Pathogen Surveillance

North Carolina is reaching peak season for foodborne pathogens. The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) and clinical partners are seeing increased reports of *Cyclospora*, Shiga-toxin–producing *E. coli* (STEC), *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter*, and *Vibrio* activity along the southern East Coast. To support a coordinated public health response, NCSLPH is sharing resources to help laboratory partners effectively submit requested organisms to the state laboratory. Properly prepared submissions are essential for accurate diagnostic testing, foodborne disease surveillance, and control. The North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch Foodborne Illness Team utilizes surveillance data for event investigation.

The table below provides quick-reference information to assist submitters during this period of heightened activity.

Foodborne Organisms Requested for Submission to NCSLPH for Statewide Surveillance		
Pathogen	Acceptable Specimens	Test Requisition Form
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Pure Isolate or Positive stool in Enteric Transport Medium ²	DHHS-3390
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.		
Shiga toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC/O157)		
<i>Shigella</i> spp.		
<i>Yersinia</i> spp.		
<i>Aeromonas</i> spp.		
<i>Vibrio</i> spp.	Pure Isolate or Positive stool in Enteric Transport Medium ²	DHHS-4121 for Isolate DHHS-3390 for Stool
<i>Cronobacter</i> spp. ¹	Pure Isolate	DHHS-3390
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Pure Isolate	DHHS-4121
<i>Cyclospora cayetanensis</i>	Positive Stool in Enteric Transport Medium ²	DHHS-1245
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.		

1. Only patients < 1 year of age with invasive illness. Submit isolates from sterile sources only.

2. Only stools in ETM/Cary Blair/C&S should be submitted for surveillance. DO NOT submit Formalin or PVA preserved stools.

Submission of pure isolates or positive culture independent diagnostic stools (CIDTs) support the following key public health goals:

- Additional genetic characterization by whole genome sequencing (WGS) or other molecular methods to determine serotype, genotype, relatedness, and other characteristics (e.g. antibiotic resistance genes)
- Support epidemiologic investigation of clusters and outbreaks
- Contributes to statewide surveillance and national database tracking for large scale and multistate events
- Provides definitive identification confirmation (e.g. *Vibrio*), and confirm presence and/or differentiation of toxins (e.g. Cholera toxin, Shiga toxin)

Current Test Requisitions can be found on the [NCSLPH Specimen Submittal Form website](#) and are linked in the table above. Foodborne diseases testing can also be ordered through the [Lab Web Portal \(LWP\)](#) for users with access to the system. Additional information about LWP can be found on the [LWP Resources webpage](#) or by contacting slph.ctor@dhhs.nc.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership. For additional information on specimen collection or submission, please contact the NCSLPH Microbiology Unit at slph.foodborne@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-733-7367.