

Infant Stool Sample Instruction Sheet

Thank you for collecting a stool (poo) sample from your baby for the ORIGINS Project. Stool sample analysis is valuable to the ORIGINS Project as there is growing evidence to suggest that patterns of ‘friendly bacteria’ in our gut have a strong influence on our developing patterns of metabolism and immunity. We will examine how maternal bacteria influence the presence and types of bacteria in the infant’s gut. If your baby has diarrhoea, please do not collect a stool sample.

STEPS FOR INFANT STOOL SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. Collect your baby’s stool sample close to the collection timepoint as possible (e.g. when your baby is 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months of age, etc)
2. Check your stool sample kit contains:
 - 3 x labelled sterile collection pots
 - 2 x wooden sticks
 - 1 x pair of gloves
 - 1 x esky (given at first ORIGINS appointment)
3. When your baby has soiled his/her nappy, remove your baby’s nappy and place on a clean surface.
4. Put gloves on and remove the lids of the collection pots.
5. Use the wooden stick to remove sample of stool from the nappy and place in the 5ml tube. Repeat until all of the three tubes are half full.
6. Place lids on the pots and seal tightly to prevent leakage. Discard the nappy.
7. Fill in the date the sample was collected on each of the tubes.
8. Place collection pots in the biohazard bag and place immediately in the freezer. **The stool sample must be placed in the freezer within 15 minutes of collection**
9. The stool sample is to be dropped off at your next ORIGINS appointment at Joondalup Hospital. Please place sample into a cooler bag with a cold pack or ice to keep the sample frozen whilst travelling to your appointment.