

Meconium (First Baby Poo) Sample Collection Instruction Sheet

Thank you for collecting a sample of your baby's meconium for The ORIGINS Project. This information sheet will detail how you can collect a meconium sample from your baby and where the sample must be taken for subsequent analysis and storage.

Meconium is the first stool that your baby produces after birth. It is thick, green and tar-like and may be excreted by your baby for collection within the first 24 hours of life. Meconium is a valuable biological sample that will be used to examine how maternal bacteria influence the presence and types of bacteria in the infant's gut.

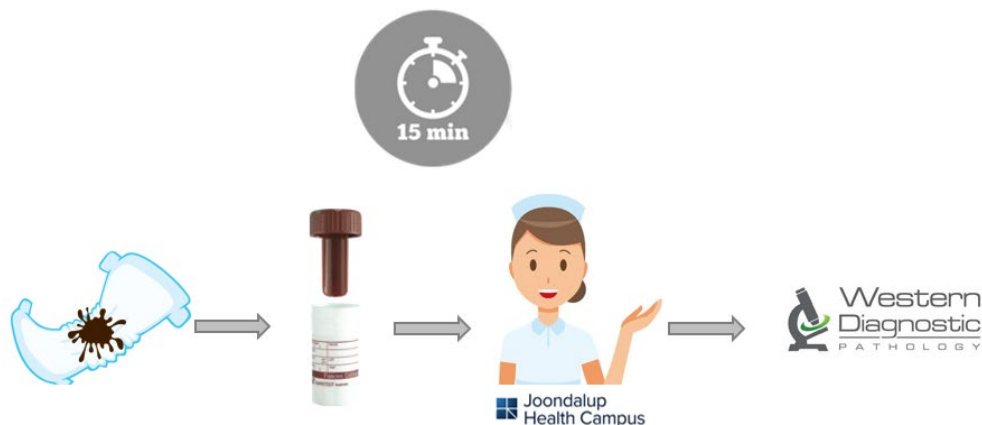
IMPORTANT NOTES FOR SAMPLE COLLECTION

Your baby's meconium sample will need to be sent to Western Diagnostic Pathology at the hospital immediately after the sample has been collected.

- Ensure to wash your hands prior to, and after, collecting the sample to prevent contamination of the meconium sample.
- The sample tubes should be filled from 1 meconium sample only, and not from several different samples.
- Please collect the sample within baby's first 24 hours after birth.

Birth samples for ORIGINS are all collected in hospital with the support of the midwives. For more info scan the QR code or follow the link below:

https://originsproject.telethonkids.org.au/for-participants/sample_collection/birth_samples/



STEPS FOR THE MECONIUM SAMPLE COLLECTION

1. Ensure your meconium sample collection kit contains:



- 1 x stool collection pot with scoop in lid
 - 1 x pair of gloves
 - 1 x Western Diagnostic request form (partially filled in by ORIGINS staff)
2. When your baby has soiled their nappy, remove your baby's nappy and place on a clean surface.
 3. Put gloves on.
 4. Use the scooped lid of the collection pot to collect the sample.
 5. Please try your best to collect as much meconium as possible.
 6. Place lid on the collection pot and seal tightly to prevent leakage. Discard the remaining stool.
 7. Write the date of collection on the tube.
 8. Fill in the **date** and **time** of the sample collection on the biological request form included in the sample kit and place the form in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag.
 9. Please give the sample **IMMEDIATELY** to your midwife and they will send the sample to the Western Diagnostic Pathology Clinic at the hospital for processing.

Thank you for being a part of this valuable research

Any queries please contact The ORIGINS team



9408 3118



ORIGINSproject@telethonkids.org.au

www

ORIGINSproject.telethonkids.org.au