



ENTERIC PANEL STX (SHIGA TOXIN 1 & 2 - Test Code 2029)



Turnaround Time: 3-5 business days



Specimen Type: Stool Kit

Description

The Enteric Panel STX test detects specific toxins produced by certain strains of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) (i.e., Shiga toxins 1 (stx 1) and 2 (stx 2). This type of bacteria is known to cause severe gastrointestinal illnesses including bloody diarrhoea and, in extreme cases, haemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) which is a potentially life-threatening condition (Newell & La Ragione, 2018).

The test focuses on two distinct forms of Shiga toxin

- **Shiga toxin 1 (stx 1):** This toxin is closely related to the toxin produced by *Shigella* bacteria and is associated with gastrointestinal illness (Newell & La Ragione, 2018).
- **Shiga toxin 2 (stx 2):** This toxin is considered more hazardous than stx 1 and is often linked to more severe health outcomes, including HUS (Newell & La Ragione, 2018).

Detecting Shiga toxins in stool samples helps identify infections caused by these harmful bacteria, allowing prompt treatment and management of the condition. Delayed diagnosis of STEC infections can increase the risk of complications, underscoring the importance of timely testing and intervention. Early detection also aids in preventing the spread of infection to others, especially in high-risk settings such as schools and healthcare facilities.

Whats included?

- Shiga toxin 1 (stx1) / Shiga toxin 2 (stx2) genes found in Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and *Shigella dysenteriae* (which can possess an identical Shiga toxin gene)

Conditions and Symptoms

- Bloody diarrhoea
- Abdominal pain
- Flatulence
- Bloating
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Fever and fatigue
- Decreased urine output
- Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)

Complementary Testing

- Complete Microbiome Mapping (Test code 2206)
- IgG 96 General Western Food Panel (Test code 3206)

Accreditations Include:

- NATA ISO 15189 – Requirements for Quality and Competence in Medical Laboratories*
- CLIA – Clinical Laboratories Improvement Amendments*



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