

Sputum Collection Micro and Culture

Test Requirements

- **The preferred** time of collection is first thing in **the morning** prior to eating, drinking or smoking, however if this is not possible the specimens can be collected at other times.
- Sputum from lungs is required. Saliva (e.g. spit) from the mouth or throat is NOT suitable for testing.

Equipment

- 1 x White top container

Procedure

1. Label container with your full name, date of birth, date of time of collection, and test name.
2. Rinse your mouth with water, for patients with dentures, please remove the dentures first.
3. A deep cough is needed to produce sputum sample.
4. Collect the sample directly into the container.
5. Place the lid on the container and tighten the lid firmly to prevent leakage. Avoid cross threading.
6. The sample must be delivered to the Collection Centre as soon as possible.
7. If there is a delay, specimen should be refrigerated and delivered to the Collection Centre later in the day.