

Sputum Collection for AFB

Special Requirements

- 3 x sputum samples are required
- **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.
- Specimens must be collected on 3 consecutive days and delivered to the Collection Centre on each day of collection.
- It is preferable NOT to collect the sample over the weekend/ public holidays.

Equipment

- 3 x White top containers marked 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Collection Instructions

DAY 1

1. Label **container no.1** 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.
8. **Repeat steps 1-7** for the collection of samples 2 and 3. Ensure containers are marked 2 & 3 respectively.