

Equipment

3 x Sterile screw top universal containers marked 1, 2, 3.

3 x Paper bags for transportation.

Procedure

First thing in the morning is the **preferred** time for collection prior to eating, drinking or smoking. A deep cough first thing in the morning, is needed to produce a sputum sample. It is preferable not to collect specimens over the weekend.

HOWEVER – specimens can be collected at other times.

NOTE: Sputum from the lungs is required. Saliva (i.e., spit) from the mouth or throat is **not** useful for testing.

1. Rinse your mouth with water. For patients with dentures, remove the dentures first.
2. Collect the sample directly into the container.
3. Replace the lid tightly. Be careful not to misthread the lid as leakage can occur and the specimen will need to be recollected.
4. Specimen must be delivered to the collection centre as soon as possible on the day of collection. If there is a delay, specimens should be refrigerated and delivered to the rooms later that day.

Specimens must be collected on consecutive days and delivered to the rooms on each day of collection.