

# Sputum Specimen Collection for Tuberculosis Testing



Sputum comes from the lungs after a deep cough.



When you first wake up in the morning, cough up the sputum before eating, drinking, or smoking



- Sputum Kits Include:
1. Plastic collection tube
  2. Biohazard bag with pad
  3. Ice Pack
  4. Lab slip with clear bag
  5. Foam box
  6. Outer mailing container
  7. Prepaid, preaddressed shipping label

The public health nurse will give you the collection kit which contains the items listed above. Freeze the cold pack.



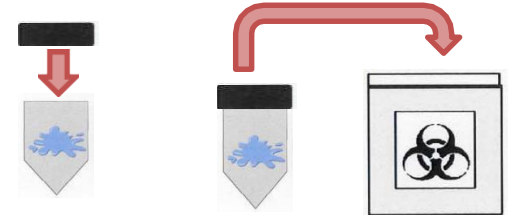
Lab Form

The nurse will help you fill out the lab form.

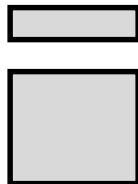
You **MUST** write your First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, and Collection date on the collection tube and lab slip.



Cough the sputum directly into the tube. **DO NOT** get the sputum on the outside of the tube. If necessary, wash the outside of the tube.



Replace the cap on the plastic tube. Fasten the cap **SECURELY**. Place the tube into the biohazard bag containing an absorbent pad. **SEAL** and refrigerate the specimen bag.



Place the frozen cold pack and biohazard bag(s) containing the sputum tube into the foam insert box.



Put the slip(s) into the clear plastic bag. Place the foam box into the pre-addressed postage-paid outer cardboard box. Place the lab forms into the cardboard box outside of the foam insert.



Follow the directions provided by the public health center for delivery to the laboratory.

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