

North Bay Regional Health Centre

Laboratory – Microbiology Department

Sputum Collection Instructions for Culture and Sensitivity

Please note:

- Sputum specimens must be received and processed within 24 hours of collection. Only one specimen per 24 hour period will be processed.
- Sputum is material brought up from as far down in the lungs as possible after a deep cough. It is not saliva or post nasal discharge.

Collection instructions:

1. First thing in the morning, if you wear dentures remove them, rinse mouth well with water. Do not use mouthwash.
2. Label the specimen container with your first and last name, date of birth and the date and time of sample collection.
3. Remove the lid from the sterile specimen container, do **not** touch the rim or the inside of the container or lid.
4. Collect specimen resulting from deep coughing; spit into the container.
5. Replace and tighten the lid securely.
6. Place the container into the small biohazard bag that is provided; be sure to seal the bag. Place the requisition separately in the side pouch of the bag.
7. Keep the sample upright to avoid leaking and in the fridge until it is returned to the lab.
8. Samples must be returned within 24 hours of collection to the lab and registered during regular operating hours Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.
Outpatient samples will not be accepted outside of these hours.

**If you need further information, please contact the laboratory at
705-474-8600 ext. 2935**