

Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

How to Prepare	 You are going to collect a sample of your sputum for the lab to test.
	Rinse your mouth with water for 10-15 seconds.
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Risks or Cautions	• N/A
Labelling the Sample	 Label the collection container with: Your (the patient) <u>full first and last name, date and time of collection, Provincial Health Insurance (PHN/ULI)</u>, or Government issued identification such as (Federal, Military, RCMP, Immigration) If you've been provided with a patient label, attach this label to the outside of the container.
Lab Requisition	 Print the date/time the sample was collected on your lab requisition. Fold and place the requisition in the <u>outside</u> pocket of the biohazard bag. Do not put the requisition in the bag with the sample collection container.
Collecting the Sample	Collect an early morning "deep cough" sample, before eating or drinking anything. Obtain deep cough sputum by breathing in as deeply as possible, then coughing very hard until you bring up some sputum. Spit the sputum into the container.
	Remember, sputum is thick and made of cells and mucous. Saliva is clear and runny and not acceptable for the test.
	 Repeat until 10 - 20 mL (approximately 1 tablespoon) of sputum has been collected in the container. Replace the lid.
Sample Delivery to Lab	Return the samples to the Lab. You may also refrigerate all three and bring them back to the Lab up to 24 hours after the last collection.
Questions About Your	Contact your local Laboratory.

Collection?