



Equipment

Screw top universal container

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.

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. The specimen must be delivered to the collection centre as soon as possible on the day of collection. If there is a delay, the specimen should be refrigerated and delivered to the rooms later that day.