

- Collection Container:**
- Orange top sterile container
- Collection Instructions:**
- Sputum samples should be collected before the initiation of antibiotics or following treatment failure.
 - Collection of sputum culture is not necessary for the diagnosis of pneumonia in patients not admitted to hospital
 - Wash hands with soap and water
 - The sputum sample obtained should be the result of a deep cough, thick of nature and not saliva
 - Collect an early morning specimen **BEFORE** breakfast
 - **DO NOT** use mouthwash, brush teeth, or gargle before collecting the sputum sample
 - If available the mouth can be rinsed with **sterile water** before collection
 - The patient should cough the sputum directly into the sterile container provided
 - Replace the container lid and close securely
 - Wash hands after collecting the sample
- Label the Sample Container:**
- Patient's Full first and last name **AND** Personal Health Number (PHN) or Personal Identification Number (e.g. Refugee, Immigration, Passport, etc.)
 - Specimen source/type (sputum)
 - Date **and** time the specimen was collected
- On the requisition:**
- Write the date and time (YYYY-MM-DD) of collection in the space provided at the bottom of the Microbiology requisition
- Packaging the sample:**
- Place the labelled container into the biohazard bag provided
 - Place the requisition into the outside pocket of the biohazard bag
- Transport the sample:**
- Transport the sample to the laboratory within two (2) hours of collection, or if transport is delayed, refrigerate the sample
 - The specimen **MUST** be received in the laboratory within 24 hours of collection

Samples not labelled correctly and do not have a completed requisition will not be tested.

Questions? Call the Laboratory Information Centre at 403-770-3600