

## Sputum for Culture (LTR71426)

Last Approved Time: 11/11/2022

Revision: 2.60

Specimen will **not** be tested if label or requisition is missing information.

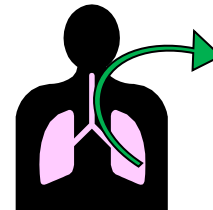
Please follow the instructions below for accurate test results.

- 
- The best time to collect the specimen is right after getting out of bed in the morning.
- 

- Gargle or rinse your mouth with water.
- Do not brush your teeth immediately before collection.



- 
- Open the cup.
  - Hold the cup very close to your mouth.
  - Take a deep breath and cough deeply from your chest.
  - The specimen from your lungs is called sputum.
  - Put the sputum into the cup. Sputum should be thick, not watery.
  - Sputum may be yellow or green.
  - A minimum of 15 mL or 1 tablespoon of sputum is required.
  - Please do **not** put saliva from your mouth into the cup.
- 



- Put the lid on the cup and close tightly.



Make sure the cup is labeled with **all** of the following:

- Full first and last name
- Alberta Healthcare number
- Date and time of collection



Jane Doe 12345 6700 Date Jan 3 Time 9:00am
---

- 
- Put the specimen cup in the section of the bag that closes and close the ziplock.
  - Wash your hands with soap and water.



- 
- Put your requisition in the outer pocket of the bag.
  - Take the specimen and the requisition to the laboratory as soon as possible.
  - Specimen must arrive in the laboratory within **2 hours** of collection.
  - Store in refrigerator if not going directly to the laboratory.