

**South Zone Sputum Collection -
Culture**

How to prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first morning collection is recommended but sample may be collected at any time. • Do not brush teeth, rinse mouth or gargle with water prior to sample collection. • Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. • Remove lid from sterile container. DO NOT touch the inside of the container or the lid.
Risks or Cautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saliva or postnasal discharge are not acceptable samples • Collect a single sample
Labelling the Sample	<p>Label the collection container with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your (the patient) <u>full first and last name, date and time of collection, Provincial Health Insurance (PHN/ULI), or Government issued identification such as (Federal, Military, RCMP, Immigration, Passport #)</u> • If you have been provided with a patient label, attach this label to the outside of the container. • Incorrectly or incompletely labeled specimens may not be tested.
Lab Requisition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take a few deep breaths. 2. Cough until a deep cough, from within the chest, is achieved. 3. Expel sputum sample from deep cough directly into the container. 4. Close the container lid tightly 5. Place container into biohazard bag.
Sample Delivery to Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return sample and requisition to the laboratory as soon as possible. • If unable to return sample to the laboratory immediately, keep sample in the fridge. • Sample MUST be returned to the laboratory the same day it is collected. • Prolonged delays may affect the test results.
Questions About Your Collection?	<p>Lethbridge – (403) 388-6057 Medicine Hat – (403) 529-8919</p>