

GASTRIC WASHINGS

Recommended Specimen Handling Procedure of Gastric Contents For Mycobacteria Testing (An Informational Letter for Hospitals, Labs, Physicians, etc.)

Special labelled, clear glass jars, containing dried phosphate buffer, are required to hold gastric washings obtained from patients who are unable to produce adequate sputum samples (ie. Children will often swallow coughed up sputa). The buffer neutralizes gastric acids, present in the sample, allowing Mycobacteria to survive during transport to the Provincial Laboratory.

Follow the steps below:

Transfer the entire specimen into the jar. If required, more than one jar may be used. Recap the specimen jar tightly and place in the main compartment of our biohazard bag (please ensure that jar is properly labelled with patient's full name and other identifiers). Complete a Provincial Laboratory requisition and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.

Note: If you do not have the aforementioned glass jar, or if you have any questions, contact:

Laboratory Information	Calgary Site	Edmonton Site
Mycobacteriology (TB)dept	403-944-1209	780-407-7680
General Inquiries Phone #	403-944-1200	780-407-7121
Kit Orders Phone #	403-944-2583	780-407-8971
Microbiologist/Virologist on Call Phone #	403-944-1200	780-407-7121 (ask for MOC/VOC on Call)
Address	Provincial Laboratory for Public Health 3030 Hospital Drive NW Calgary, AB T2N 4W4	Provincial Laboratory for Public Health Room 2B4.04, 8440-112 Street Edmonton, AB T6G 2J2