

Sputum Sample Collection

1. Open the biohazard bag and remove the sterile container.
2. Collect sputum specimens early in the morning, before eating and drinking. Do not submit pure saliva or nasal secretions.
3. Collect 3 sputum specimens if possible. Ideally on consecutive mornings. Please collect at minimum 5ml. You can cough phlegm several times to obtain one sample. You can also collect 3 sputum samples in the same day if they are **at least 1 hour apart**.
4. Ensure that each specimen collection (i.e. each morning sample) is in a different sterile container.
5. Replace cap on container closing tightly.
6. **Please place the included labels on the specimen container and include the date and time the specimen was collected.**
7. Place specimen container in the biohazard bag and seal bag. **Keep all samples stored in the refrigerator.** Samples cannot be stored in a freezer or at room temperature.
8. Please record your health card number on the General Test Requisition form and place in the front pocket of the biohazard bag.
9. Insert the completed requisition in the pocket on the outside of the sealed biohazard bag.
10. Specimens can be brought to Grey Bruce Public Health Monday – Friday, provided it is not a holiday. Please speak with your nurse to confirm if you are to drop off specimens or if your nurse is picking them up.

**** IMPORTANT:** *All specimens must be stored in the refrigerator.*