

PATIENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPUTUM TESTING

Container/Tube: Screw-capped, sterile container

Specimen Minimum Volume: 5 mL (for concentration)

Collection Instructions: Submit one specimen (routine culture) or 3 specimens on consecutive days (for AFB or TB culture) as follows:

1. Do not eat prior to collection.

2. Specimen should be a single, first-morning, “deep cough” sputum specimen,

3. Brush teeth and/or rinse mouth well with water.

3. Remove dentures if applicable.

4. Take a deep breath, hold it momentarily, and cough deeply and vigorously into a screw-capped, sterile container. \*Specimen should be of a mucus consistency

5. Label container with patient’s name (first and last), date and actual time of collec- tion, and source of specimen.

Specimen Note: Saliva or “spit” or 24-hour collection is not acceptable.

Routine Sputum cultures MUST be dropped off at the lab on the day of collection.

If collecting x3 days for AFB or TB, all collections can be returned to the lab on the last day.

[www.christianhospital.org](http://www.christianhospital.org)

314.653.5000