

<b>Specimen Type:</b>	<b>Sputum</b>
<i>Patient Preparation:</i>	The patient should be instructed to clear the throat of postnasal secretions and to gargle and rinse their mouth to remove food residue.
<i>Specimen Collection:</i>	Have the patient inhale very deeply to full capacity of lungs. The patient should then exhale air with expulsive cough with sputum going into a clean, labeled, collection container. Saliva or sinus drainage are <b>NOT</b> acceptable specimens. This procedure may be repeated with reasonable rest periods until a true deep cough specimen is obtained.
<i>Specimen Requirements:</i>	Minimum 1 mL; 3 mL to 5 mL preferred. Submit fresh or in cytology fixative. <i>Note: A separate specimen without fixative must be submitted to the microbiology department if a culture is requested.</i>
<i>Handling/Transport:</i>	If submitted fresh, submit to laboratory immediately, refrigerate if delayed.

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