

## **FUNGAL CULTURE COLLECTION SPUTUM**

### **Principle:**

To properly collect a sputum specimen for the diagnosing of a fungal infection.

### **Supplies:**

1. Sputum collection kit from the Public Health Laboratory, or sterile screw cap container for fungal culture.
2. Test Requisition form ODH # 419.

### **Patient Preparation:**

1. Prior to breakfast, the patient should brush his/her teeth and/or rinse with water, or mouthwash before obtaining the sputum specimen. A clean mouth reduces the overgrowth of mouth flora.

### **Collection:**

1. Remove the cap from the sterile container without touching the inside of the container. This will avoid contamination of the specimen which results in having to submit another specimen.
2. Patient is instructed to take a deep breath, hold it momentarily and cough deeply from the deepest part of the chest. .
3. Sputum from the lungs is collected into the appropriate sterile container until at least 5 ml or 1 teaspoon is obtained. Replace the lid on the container. A minimum of 5 ml is needed for culture.

### **Saliva and nasal secretions are not satisfactory.**

4. Avoid soiling the outside of the container. If soiling with sputum occurs, wipe with a cloth wet with alcohol, soap and water, or 1:10 bleach solution, then wash hands.
5. Sputum specimens should be free of food particles and other extraneous material.
6. Replace the cap on plastic tube or sterile container.

### **Specimen Handling:**

1. **Specimen Labeling**
  - a. Label a sterile screw cap container with the patient's name and date of collection.

2. **Requisition**

- a. Fill out a Test Requisition form ODH # 419 to accompany specimen.
- b. See instructions for completing. Be sure to complete specific test

Information:

- In the Mycobacteriology Section mark an 'X' in the Fungal Testing box.
- Specimen/Source: Mark an 'X' in the appropriate box.
- If Other is marked, enter site.

**Specimen Preservation and Transport:**

1. Place the plastic sputum collection tube in the doubled pocketed specimen bag.  
Place this in outer cardboard mailing container.
2. Maintain specimen at room temperature until it can be transported to the laboratory.
3. Ship specimen within 24 hours after collection.

**Sputum Specimen Rejection:**

1. No Return Address.
2. No Patient Identification on Specimen.
3. Patient Name or Identifier does not match the name or identifier on the specimen.
4. No test requisition received.
5. No patient name or identifier on form.
6. Specimen sent on expired media.
7. Improper specimen for test requested.
8. Quantity Not Sufficient.
9. Improper specimen, dry swab, non-neutralized gastric specimen.
10. Leaked in transit.
11. Broken in transit.
12. Too old upon receipt by the laboratory. Must be <7 days.
13. Specimen not received cold if greater than >24 hrs from date of collection.