

SPUTUM

PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

It is important to follow these instructions carefully to ensure your test results are accurate.

Preparation:

- Obtain the correct container and specimen bag from a laboratory collection room.
- Sputum specimens are best to be collected first thing in the morning.
- If three specimens are required, each to be collected on a different morning.

Collection Procedure:

1. Sputum is to be coughed up into container provided.
2. A correct sputum (or phlegm) specimen is one that you feel has come up from being in your chest or lungs. **NOTE:** Saliva from the mouth is not suitable.
3. Ensure the lid is screwed on tightly.
4. Label each container clearly with your Name, Date of birth and the Date and Time specimen is collected.
5. Place in the specimen bag provided.
6. Return to the nearest laboratory as soon as possible- if you cannot drop the specimen off straight away, it can be stored in a cool place

Ensure a copy of the request form is with each specimen.
Check your sample is labelled with your full name and date of birth.

Your results can only be obtained from the requesting doctor

Please refer to our website for additional information
www.pathlab.co.nz

or alternatively contact
07 858 0795