

TB Kit

Instructions for the use of the TB kit for the collection and transportation of sputum specimens for Mycobacteria culture including *M. tuberculosis*.

The TB kit consists of: one 90 ml sterile container, one biohazard bag and a Public Health Laboratory (PHL) Requisition.

1. Open the biohazard bag and remove the sterile container.
2. Collect sputum specimens early in the morning, before eating. Do not submit pure saliva or nasal secretions.
3. Collect sputum specimens on 3 consecutive early mornings and submit each to laboratory upon completion. 5 ml sputum is optimal; the patient may expectorate several times.
4. Do not pool the three specimens. Do not have patient rinse mouth with tap water before producing specimen.
5. Replace cap on container closing tightly.
6. Label specimen container with patient's full name and a second unique identifier (e.g. accession number, date of birth, Health Card number). Note: Specimens received without the patient's full name and a second identifier will not be processed by the laboratory.
7. Place specimen container in the biohazard bag and seal bag.
8. Complete the requisition sheet including the patients full name, address including city and postal code, date of birth, Health Card number, PHL test code T04 or test requested, source of specimen, collection date, physician name, phone number and address, and clinical diagnosis/symptoms and onset date. If the specimen is "Follow-up", "Post Treatment", please note this on the requisition. Insert data sheet in the pocket on the outside of the biohazard bag or in a separate envelope. Do not place data sheet inside bag with the specimen.
9. Place each specimen in a separate biobag and provide one requisition form per specimen.

STORAGE and TRANSPORT - The collection container can be stored at room temperature before use. Transport the specimen to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection. If transport is delayed more than one hour the specimen must be refrigerated.

TO ORDER KITS or INFORMATION: Contact OAHPP order desk, Public Health Laboratory Toronto @ 416 235-5937 or order by fax @ 416 235-5753 or your local Public Health Laboratory.