



Sputum collection for Micro and Culture

Please follow these instructions carefully to ensure your results are accurate and reliable.

Your doctor has asked you to provide a sputum sample for pathology testing.

1. Obtain a collection jar from your nearest Melbourne Pathology collection centre or doctor and label with your full name, date of birth and date and time of collection.
2. Sputum should be produced from a deep cough from the base of the lungs. Sputum is usually of a thick consistency and white, yellow or green in colour. A sample of sputum may be easier to produce first thing in the morning. Saliva, in contrast, is often clear and colourless. Saliva is of no use in this investigation.
3. Spit sputum directly into the jar.
4. Keep at room temperature until delivered. Deliver the sample to your nearest Melbourne Pathology collection centre on the day you collect it to ensure the specimen is suitable for testing.
5. Please do not collect specimens on Sundays or public holidays.