



FHHR LABORATORY SPECIMEN COLLECTION

SPUTUM

Microbiology and Cytology Samples

Please read carefully before proceeding with collection.

Materials provided:

- Sterile container(s)

Specimen collection instructions:

1. Specimen must be collected first thing in the morning **before** eating or drinking.
2. Rinse mouth thoroughly with water and discard. Remove dentures if present. Do not use mouthwash.
3. Open mouth and take a deep breath. Cough deeply with force.
4. Repeat until it feels as if material is being coughed up from the lungs (Do **NOT** spit saliva into the container as this may invalidate the test).
5. Expel the material directly into the sterile container.
6. Label container with full name, DOB, HSN, collection date and time.
7. Replace the cap on the container and tighten.
8. Return the specimen to the Laboratory as soon as possible. It is preferable to deliver the sample to the laboratory the same day of collection. However, if there is a delay in delivery, the sample may be refrigerated for no longer than 24 hours.
9. If more than one (1) container has been provided to you, collect the specimens on consecutive mornings using a separate container each morning.

Reference:

Versalovic, J., Carroll, K.C., Funke, G., Jorgensen, J.H., Landry, M.L., Warnock, D.W., 2011, Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 10th Ed., American Society of Microbiology, Washington, D.C.