PATIENT COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPUTUM TESTING

**Container/Tube:** Screw-capped, sterile container

**Specimen Minimum Volume:** 5 mL (for concentration)

**Collection Instructions:** Submit specimens on 3 consecutive days (not pooled) as follows:
1. Do not eat prior to collection.
2. Specimen should be a single, first-morning, “deep cough” sputum specimen,
3. Brush teeth and/or rinse mouth well with water.
3. Remove dentures if applicable.
4. Take a deep breath, hold it momentarily, and cough deeply and vigorously into a screw-capped, sterile container. *Specimen should be of a mucus consistency*
5. Label container with patient’s name (first and last), date and actual time of collection, and source of specimen.

**Specimen Note:** Saliva or “spit” or 24-hour collection is not acceptable.