Sputum Culture

Alfred Pathology Service

Patient Instructions

Contact numbers and service hours for collection centers are on the back of your pathology request slip.

The Alfred
55 Commercial Road,
Melbourne VIC 3004
T 03 9076 2000
alfredhealth.org.au

This test requires you to collect a sample of sputum into the container provided.

Equipment provided for this test
- 50ml sterile specimen container

Prior to commencing this test
- Sputum specimen should be collected in the morning, before eating, drinking or taking any tablets or other medication.

Collection Instructions
1. Apply ID labels if provided or write your full name (first, middle & surname), date of birth on the container(s).
2. Expectorate sputum into a provided specimen container.
   Please Note: Saliva is not suitable for this test
3. Close the container by screwing the lid on tightly ensuring it is straight. Place the container in the specimen bag provided.
4. Deliver the specimen to collection center as soon as possible.

The sputum should not be refrigerated

Specimens will not be accepted if not collected in appropriate (pathology provided) container.

If there is a problem during the collection, a replacement container / kit can be provided.