



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Sputum Collection Kit

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2 °C – 8 °C / 36 °F – 46 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 72 hours (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory)

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (15 °C – 25 °C / 59 °F – 77 °F)

Expiration: NA

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Sputum: 5 – 10 mL sputum (if specimen is induced, note that on the requisition)

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

3545: Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) Culture & Smear

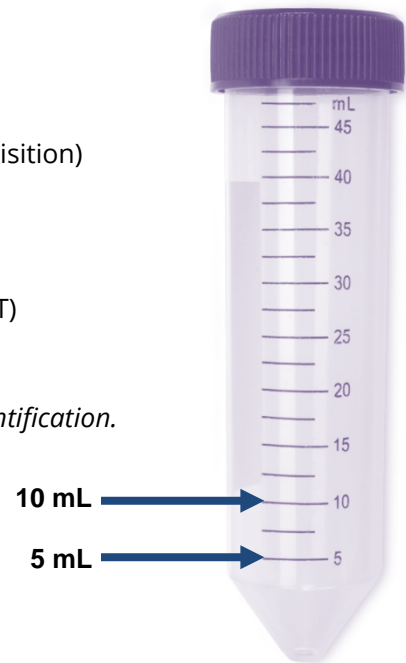
3530: *M. tuberculosis* (TB) PCR, a.k.a. Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)

3905: Mycology Culture

Note: culture tests take a minimum of six weeks for complete growth and identification.

REJECTION CRITERIA

- holding time greater than 72 hours
- specimen container not labeled
- specimen container has leaked or is not sealed properly
- volume less than 5 mL (approximately a rounded teaspoon)



Specimen Tube

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Sputum specimens should be collected in the early morning. Patients suspected of having TB should submit a minimum of 3 consecutive specimens at least 8 hours, but no more than 24 hours, apart.

1. Rinse throat and mouth with water (do not brush teeth or use mouthwash).
2. Cough very deeply and collect between 5 and 10 mL of sputum (about an inch high) into the specimen tube. Sputum is the mucus material from inside the lungs. Do not collect saliva or nasal discharge.
3. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube. If the cap is crooked, your specimen may leak and will be rejected.
4. Label the tube with the patient's name, date of birth, date collected and time collected.
5. Place the specimen tube inside the inner, clear specimen bag and seal the bag tightly.
6. Place the bagged specimen inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.
7. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
8. Transport to the laboratory within 72 hours of collection.