

Collection and Packaging of Sputum Specimens



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Supplies Needed for Sputum Collection



Sputum Tube
Speci-Gard Bag
Outer UN3373 Box



- 1) Make sure two identifiers are on the specimen label.
- 2) Fill out Outreach form completely. Write the collection date on the Outreach form.

When You First Get Up; Before You Eat Anything!

- 1) Remove cap, and be careful not to place your mouth on the rim of the sputum tube.
- 2) Take three good, deep breaths.
- 3) Cough deeply enough to bring up secretions (NOT saliva) from your chest.
- 4) Spit secretions into tube up to 5 ml. (1 tsp.).
- 5) Place the cap straight and tight on the sputum tube (Do not place in a crooked position).



Packaging and Shipping

- 1) Place sputum tube into bag with absorbent and remove plastic strip to expose adhesive. Seal bag together by pressing adhesive to bag.
- 2) Place bag with sputum tube inside of UN3373 box.
- 3) Place Outreach form on top of specimen bag.
- 3) The specimen must be mailed to the state laboratory or taken to the local health department on the day of collection. Sputum that cannot be mailed or taken to the health department on the day of collection must be refrigerated (NOT frozen).

Shipping by US Postal Service - label is provided on box.

Shipping via FedEx - Place box(es) inside UN3373 Pak and place FedEx label on outer Pak.



Refer to 49CFR 173.199 for current regulations on packaging and shipping of Category B infectious substances
Note: Orange cap primary container meets the 95kPa specification - Do not put blue cap tube from canister kit in this kit.