



Dear Patient,

We are pleased you have chosen Beebe Healthcare Laboratory for your testing needs and we look forward to serving you. This brochure has information that will be helpful to obtain the most accurate results for this test. If you have further questions, or concerns. Please do not hesitate to call us at (302) 645-3241.



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Sputum Specimen Collection

Collection Instructions
for Patients



Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Services

Sputum Specimen Collection

Your doctor has ordered a test for detecting bacteria that may cause respiratory infections. Please read the information below before collecting the specimen. If you have any questions, please contact your doctor.

- A sputum specimen should be collected **first thing in the morning** into a sterile container provided by your doctor.
- Upon waking, rinse your mouth with warm water. If you have dentures in place, remove your dentures first

Instructions for Collection:

- Open the lid to the container. Produce a deep cough and expel any material that you bring up into the container. Try to produce deep material from the lungs and not saliva from the mouth. Saliva is not a good specimen.
- Replace the lid tightly on the container. Make sure that the specimen is not leaking.
- Label the container with your full name, and the date and time you collected the specimen.
- Place specimen container into a plastic bag and seal.
- Deliver the specimen to Beebe Medical Center Laboratory, Beebe Lab Express, Beebe Imaging Offices, or to your doctor's office as soon as possible. Place specimen in the refrigerator if you cannot drop off the specimen as soon as possible. If your doctor has instructed you to collect THREE specimens, please bring in the specimens as soon as you collect them; do not wait to bring in all three at the same time.



Beebe Healthcare is committed to providing the highest standard of care for every member of the community. We use the latest advances in medical technology and state-of-the-art instrumentation. Beebe Healthcare is committed to provide the best information possible to your doctor—it's about your health and your life.