

Sputum sample collection

NO BOOKING REQUIRED



If the sputum sample is not refrigerated or there is a delay in delivering it to PathWest, it can affect your results, and you may be asked to repeat the test.



Scan for location

You will be given a sterile container for your sample. If the container is damaged or you have touched the inside, please request a new container.

1. Perform the collection first thing in the morning.
2. Before collecting the sample, rinse your mouth out with water. If you have dentures, remove the dentures first.
3. When ready, take a deep breath and cough deeply from your lungs. Cough the sputum (phlegm from your lungs) directly into the sample container.
4. Make sure the lid is closed tightly.
5. Write your **full name, date of birth**, as well as the **date and time** the sample was collected on the container.
6. Each sample needs to be delivered to a PathWest within 12 hours of being collected.
7. If your doctor requires multiple sputum samples, these should be performed on separate days.

Sample handling, storage and delivery

If you are at a collection centre

Place the container into the plastic bag provided and hand it to a staff member

If collecting a sample at home

Deliver it to a PathWest collection centre within **one hour**. If immediate delivery is not possible, store the sample in the refrigerator (not freezer) for up to 12 hours in an additional sealed bag.

Disclaimer: This publication is for general education and informational purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.
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