



# AFB SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Collect 3 separate respiratory specimens for acid-fast smears and cultures. The best time to collect is upon awakening. The 3 specimens should be collected at 8 to 24 hour intervals (24 hours when possible), and should include *at least* one first-morning specimen.



1. Remove the Sputum Collection System from the bag and lift the top hinged lid for collection.
2. Take several deep breaths in a row. After the last breath, cough as hard as possible into the collection device. The specimen should not contain saliva or nasal secretions. It should be thick phlegm that is coughed up from the lungs.
3. If the sputum sample appears adequate, tightly reseal the lid on the collection device and place it back into the bag (upright). Do not attempt to remove the blue conical tube and/or lid from inside the collection device.
4. Deliver the specimen to outpatient services promptly after the collection is complete. If there will be a delay of more than 2 hours in bringing your specimens to the laboratory, store them in a refrigerator:

**Monday-Friday 7:00am-5:30pm:** Please deliver your specimens to the outpatient services lab, across the hall from the BHDH gift shop on the second floor.

**After hours/Weekends:** Please go to the front registration desk at the Emergency Department. Please allow adequate time for staff to confirm your lab orders and accept your specimen.