

# Lower Respiratory Pathogen Sputum Collection Guide 2022

## SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR COLLECTION

- (1) Requisition (Electronic or Paper)
- (1) Pair gloves and other PPE required
- (1) Sterile specimen cup with sputum dipper transfer device and specimen tube
- (1) Specimen biohazard bag

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

### STEP 1

#### LABEL SPECIMEN TUBE, FILL OUT TESTING ORDER

- Label specimen tube with the patient's full legal name and DOB.
- **Improperly labeled tubes will cause a rejection.**
- Electronic ordering - <https://innovativegx.limsabc.com/>
- **Not providing proper demographic, insurance information, copy of insurance card front and back, ICD-10 codes with provider signature may cause a rejection.**



### STEP 2

#### COLLECTING THE SPECIMEN

- Patient must rinse and gargle with water prior to collection.
- Give the patient a sterile specimen container with the lid off.
- Have the patient place the edge of the sterile specimen cup rim against their lower lip to catch the entire specimen.
- Instruct the patient to obtain material from a deep cough, which is expectorated into a sterile container.
- **Avoid adding saliva or nasopharyngeal discharge to the sputum sample.**
- Peel open sputum dipper transfer device and remove the specimen tube and transfer device.
- Dip the sputum dipper transfer device into the collection cup into the sputum.
- Rotate the head of the sputum dipper until the head is full of sputum.
- Remove specimen tube cap and insert sputum dipper inside tube.
- Break the top of sputum dipper device at breakpoint.
- Place the specimen tube cap and securing tightly.
- **If the specimen tube cap is not sealed tight and correctly, specimen will leak and will cause a rejection.**

### STEP 3

#### PREPARE SPECIMEN FOR SHIPPING

- Place the tightly sealed and properly labeled specimen tube inside the biohazard bag.
- Place patient demographic and insurance information into document pouch within biohazard bag.