

Graham Health System Laboratory
210 W. Walnut or 180 S. Main Street
Canton, IL 61520
Phone: 309-647-5240 or 309-647-0201

Sputum Collection

Patient Collection Hand-out

1. The first morning specimens are preferred and generally yield the most accurate results.
2. If you wear dentures, remove them. Rinse mouth and gargle with water.
3. Cough deeply and then spit the sputum (thick mucous material) into the collection container provided by the laboratory.
4. The specimen needs to be mucous, **NOT SALIVA.**
5. Deliver the specimen to the laboratory within one hour.
6. If unable to return specimen to laboratory within in one hour, the specimen may be refrigerated for up to twenty-four hours.