

Infection Prevention and Control Considerations for On-the-spot Sputum Collection in Clinic Settings

A quick guide to be used in conjunction with the [Community Health Services IP&C Manual- Additional Precautions in the Clinic Setting](#) (see Airborne Precautions)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Instruct the client to wear a procedure mask until he/she has exited the building following the visit
- Providers shall wear an **N95 respirator** at all times while in the room with the client, and shall have been fit-tested for the N95 respirator. N95 respirators must be seal checked when applied

If **neither** outdoor nor indoor on-the-spot sputum collection are can be safely performed using Airborne Precautions, provide client with instructions to collect all 3 samples at home.

Sputum Collection

OUTDOOR COLLECTION:

- Do not attempt **outdoor** on-the-spot sputum collection if a relatively open area outside (e.g., parking lot) is not available
- Provide the client a clean procedure mask and place client in a single room with the door closed for the duration of the visit
- Explain to client how to produce sputum and provide with sample container and a clean procedure mask to return to the clinic
- Instruct client or escort him/her to outside the building for sputum collection away from other people
- Provide client instructions to collect the remaining 2 sputum samples at home

INDOOR COLLECTION:

- Do not attempt **indoor** on-the-spot sputum collection if Airborne Precautions cannot be achieved
- If available, place symptomatic clients in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)
- Otherwise provide the client a clean procedure mask and place client in a single room with the door closed for duration of the visit
- Collect sputum in a single clinic room with the door shut using Airborne Precautions (ensure provider is wearing a N95 respirator)
 - Following collection, keep the door closed and room unoccupied for 4 hours or until 99.9% air exchange has been achieved as per the Air Changes per Hour Table in the Community Health Services IP&C Manual
 - No one shall enter the room without an N95 respirator until the air has been fully exchanged
- Provide client instructions to collect the remaining 2 sputum samples at home