

**STANDING ORDERS FOR SPUTUM COLLECTION  
OF AFB SMEAR AND CULTURE**

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TO: All WV Local Health Departments

FROM: Dominic Gaziano, MD  
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1. Submit all specimens to WV Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). Time mailings so they don't arrive on a holiday or weekend.
  2. Use the procedure shown on OLS website for correct process of collecting specimen at:  
[www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/TB/AFB\\_Patient\\_Collection\\_Instructions.pdf](http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/shared/docs/TB/AFB_Patient_Collection_Instructions.pdf).
  3. For any suspect case of TB, obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive mornings for smear and culture.
  4. For all active TB cases:
    - Obtain initial sputum X 3 on consecutive days for smear and culture.
    - Then obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive days for smear and culture two weeks after start of treatment.
    - Then obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive days every two weeks until all three consecutive smears are negative.
    - Then obtain sputum X 3 on consecutive days monthly until culture negative X 3 for two months.
  5. Follow above criteria unless otherwise instructed by clinician.
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**Bureau for Public Health  
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Division of Tuberculosis Elimination**

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