

**FROM:**

**WV DIVISION OF TB ELIMINATION**

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**DATE:** 1/1/2026

**RE: STANDING ORDERS FOR SPUTUM COLLECTION FOR TB TESTING**

**TO: All WV Local Health Departments**

**ORDERS:**

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 for correct process of collecting specimen at:  
[https://oepps.wv.gov/tuberculosis/Documents/lhd/HCW\\_sputum\\_collection\\_instructions\\_Nov\\_2018.pdf](https://oepps.wv.gov/tuberculosis/Documents/lhd/HCW_sputum_collection_instructions_Nov_2018.pdf)
3. For any suspect case of TB, obtain 3 consecutive days morning sputum for smear and culture.
4. For all active TB cases **(If the patient is unable to produce sputum notify WV DTBE so patient can be sent for sputum induction):**
  - Obtain initial 3 consecutive days morning sputum for smear and culture.
  - Then obtain 3 consecutive days morning sputum two weeks after the start of treatment.
  - Then obtain 3 consecutive days morning sputum every two weeks until all three consecutive smears are negative.
  - Then obtain 3 consecutive days morning sputum monthly until all 3 culture results are negative for two months.
5. Follow above criteria unless otherwise instructed by clinician.

*Sandra J. Elliott M.D.*  
Sandra Elliott, MD

*1/1/26*

DATE

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