

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://oeps.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.

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DATE

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