

Sputum Collection for Culture

The sputum specimen for culture should be collected before starting antibiotic therapy when possible. An early morning specimen is the best. If possible, clean teeth, gargle and spit out any saliva prior to collection.

Collection:

1. Obtain the Falcon sputum collection system from the laboratory. Remove lid.
2. Breathe as deeply as possible and inhale to the full capacity of the lungs.
3. Exhale the air with an explosive cough. Cough up sputum from the lungs (not post nasal secretions). Place into the collection system.
4. Saliva is of no diagnostic importance. Do not spit into the container without a deep cough. **Note: Specimens contaminated with saliva will be rejected as unacceptable.**
5. Close the lid after collection of sufficient specimen (Routine culture: 3 ml. Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) Culture: 6 ml.)/ Multiple samples may be submitted in the same container in order to reach the desired amount of specimen. Label with name, date and time of collections). **✘ DO NOT REFRIGERATE ✘**
6. Specimens must reach the laboratory within four to six hours of collection. See other side for laboratory locations and hours of operation.

Lakeland Outpatient Service Centers

Lakeland hopes that the following information will assist you in choosing a location for outpatient services. Outpatient services include: blood draws, drop off non-blood specimens (urine, stool), EKG's, urine drug screens and radiology testing. Patients may go to the location of their choice with a valid physician order.

Lakeland Center for Outpatient Services	
Address	3900 Hollywood Road St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone Number	269.556.2800
Hours of Operation	Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. & Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Lakeland Community Hospital, Niles	
Address	31 North St. Joseph Avenue Niles, MI 49120
Phone Number	269.683.5510
Hours of Operation	Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. & Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Paw Paw Lake Medical Center	
Address	6559 Paw Paw Avenue Coloma, MI 49038
Phone Number	269.983.8311 or 800.513.9193
Hours of Operation	Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Lakeland Laboratory, Cedarwood (No Radiology Services)	
Address	820 Lester Ave St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone Number	269.983.8311 or 800.513.9193
Hours of Operation	Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed for lunch between the hours of 12:30 and 1:00 p.m.
Cass Family Clinic (No Radiology Services)	
Address	109 School Street Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone Number	269.983.8311 or 800.513.9193
Hours of Operation	Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lakeland is pleased to offer the option to **schedule** your laboratory or radiology procedure(s) at both the Center for Outpatient Services location and the Lakeland Community Hospital, Niles location. Scheduled patients are registered prior to their arrival and seen at their scheduled time. **Call 269-556-2810 or 800-791-2810** to make an appointment.

For additional information, visit us online!

Laboratory: www.lakelandhealth.org/lab
Radiology: www.lakelandhealth.org/imaging