



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH


Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

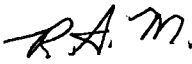
Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

Laboratories Administration
Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Health Officers

From: Richard Oatis, 
Tuberculosis Laboratory Supervisor
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Through: Dr. Robert Myers, Ph D. Director of Laboratories Administration 

Date: February 12, 2016

Subject: Specimen Submission Quality Assurance

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Laboratory Administration is committed to assuring the quality of clinical testing provided. Part of this commitment involves frequent reviews of specimens rejected due to a failure to meet quality acceptability criteria. One such recent review revealed an unacceptable number of specimens sent to the Tuberculosis (TB) Laboratory being rejected due to leaking during transit to the lab.

The TB Laboratory has drafted specimen collection instructions to assist in reducing the number of leaking specimens. These instructions have been attached to this memo and will be included in all sputum collection kits issued by DHMH. Please review and instruct your patients in collecting sputum specimens accordingly. When feasible to do so in a safe manner please monitor specimens submitted by patients to ensure the lid has been screwed on securely and correctly and does not appear crooked or loose.

These instructions will also be posted on the TB Laboratory's web site for further guidance at:
<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/docs/Sputum%20Collection%20Instructions.pdf>.

Do not hesitate to contact the TB Laboratory at (443) 681-3942 with any further questions or concerns you may have regarding specimen collection practices. Please disseminate this memo to all those in your jurisdiction responsible for submitting specimens to the TB Laboratory. Thank you for your assistance in striving for the highest quality laboratory testing.