How can I use OMNIgene®-SPUTUM?

Use Case 1: Transporting sputum samples

Adding OMNIgene•SPUTUM to a sputum specimen allows the sample to be transported or held (batched or stored) for up to 8 days without cold chain (maximum temperature 40°C). Once samples have been mixed with OMNIgene•SPUTUM, the ability to transport, batch or hold them can facilitate flexible workflows at collection sites or at the laboratory, and can translate to efficiencies in transport logistics, labour capacity and technician time. Transporting and holding samples without cold chain reduces costs as well.

The methods for collecting sputum and adding OMNIgene•SPUTUM are very simple; see Instructions For Use (ROW) and Instructions For Use (USA).

Common scenarios for transporting samples in OMNIgene•SPUTUM:

Scenario A. Collecting at peripheral lab and transporting to centralized culture testing lab

- Patient produces sputum sample into a standard cup or tube.
- Visually estimate the volume of the sample.
- Add an approximately equal volume of OMNIgene•SPUTUM.
- Cap the sample container tightly.
- Invert 10 times to mix.
- Store samples at room temperature until ready to transport.
- Samples can be batched for up to 7 days at room temperature and can be transported to the central lab without cold chain (maximum hold time 8 days at 4°C to 40°C).
- Upon arrival at the central lab:
  - Centrifuge sample at 3,800 × g for 20 minutes to obtain a sediment.
  - Gently pour off supernatant ensuring little to no supernatant is left behind.
  - Re-suspend sediment in a volume of sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) or sterile water (e.g., 1.5 mL or whatever volume accommodates all required tests).
  - Inoculate culture media.

Scenario B. Collecting at peripheral lab and transporting to Cepheid® GeneXpert® hub

- Follow the steps in Scenario A for collection and transport of sputum.
- If no centrifuge is present at hub site:
  - Add Cepheid's SR buffer to the sample and follow the “Expectorated Sputum” protocol of the GeneXpert MTB/RIF assay.
- If a centrifuge is present and testing concentrated samples is preferred:
  - Centrifuge and re-suspend the sediment as in Scenario A, then add SR buffer and follow the "Sputum Sediment" protocol of the Xpert MTB/RIF assay.