## Special Safety Instructions

The Cytolyt™ preservative in the sample container contains methanol and is **HAZARDOUS** if ingested. Do not remove this preservative from the container.

**Warning!** Material is a clear flammable liquid. Inhalation of vapours may cause non-specific discomfort (nausea, weakness), drowsiness with anesthetic effects and possible blindness. Swallowing as little as 10 ounces (296 ml) may cause blindness and in extreme cases death.

**First aid measures**
- **Inhalation:** Remove patient to fresh air. If symptoms of intoxication or vision problems are apparent, get immediate medical aid.
- **Eye contact:** Immediately flush with clean water for at least 15 minutes. Get medical aid.
- **Skin contact:** Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Flush affected area with copious amounts of water. If irritation or other symptoms are present, get immediate medical assistance.
- **Ingestion:** Do not induce vomiting unless directed to do so by medical personnel. Give one or two glasses of water and get immediate medical assistance.

## Before Collection

- Obtain the appropriate collection containers from the Laboratory.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, rinse and dry.

## Collecting the Sample

- Rinse mouth well with water
- Inhale and exhale deeply several times and cough deeply and deposit the resulting sputum directly into the preservative/container. Do not “spit” into the container if sputum was not produced from the cough, instead repeat cough process.
- Replace the lid securely on the container.
- A total of three early morning deep cough specimens collected three days in a row provides the optimal diagnostic sample

## Labeling the Sample

- The following information is required on the containers:
  - Last name, First Name, Date of Birth.
  - Personal Health Number
  - Date of Sample Collection
  - Time of Sample Collection

## Sample Handling and Delivery

- When you have completed the collection and labeling, place the sample in the plastic bag provided and seal the bag.
- Place the completed requisition in the **outer pocket** of the plastic bag. **Do not** place requisition inside the sealed section of the bag containing the sample.
- The sample in Cytolyt™ is stable for up to 7 days.
- If there is any delay in submitting the sample, the sample should be refrigerated.
- Check that the information on the requisition is correct and complete.
- Bring the sample and the Physician’s request (requisition) to the Laboratory within 24 hours of the collection of the **final** sample.

**Samples that are not labeled correctly and/or do not have a completed requisition will **NOT** be tested**

If you have any questions please call the VIHA Laboratory Call Center

**250-370-8355 or Toll Free at 1-866-370-8355**