For persons to be evaluated for TB, collect sputum specimens.

Screen persons for signs and symptoms of TB.

Refer specimens to testing laboratory.

Receive results.

Level 1 laboratories

Receive sputum specimens.

Microscopy.

Xpert MTB/RIF.

Report test results.

If follow-up testing is needed (e.g., culture), refer specimen to testing laboratory.

Receive results.

Level 2 laboratories

Receive sputum specimens.

All tests performed in level 1 lab plus culture on solid media, line-probe assays.

Report test results.

If follow-up testing is needed (e.g., DST), refer specimen or culture to testing laboratory.

Receive results.

Level 3 laboratories (NRL)

Receive specimens or cultures.

All tests performed in level 2 lab plus culture on liquid media, DST.

Report test results.