Alberta Health Services

PROVLAB ALBERTA

Laboratory Bulletin

Date: **March 26, 2018**
To: **All Physicians, All Zones**
From: **Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)**
Re: **Implementation of Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing at ProvLab for the Detection of *Mycoplasma Pneumoniae***

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Key Messages:

As of March 26, 2018, ProvLab will replace culture with a nucleic acid amplification test for the detection of M. pneumoniae from respiratory specimens.

- When *Mycoplasma* or respiratory virus detection is requested from lower respiratory specimens such as bronchoalveolar lavages, bronchial washes, endotracheal tube suctions, and lung tissues, the presence or absence of *M. pneumoniae* will be reported in the respiratory infection panel.
- Due to asymptomatic colonization of the upper respiratory tract (URT) with *M. pneumoniae*, URT specimens (such as nasopharyngeal swabs) are suboptimal for the diagnosis of pneumonia caused by this pathogen. As such, *M. pneumoniae* testing will not be routinely performed for URT specimens unless requested.
- Culture will continue to be performed for *M. pneumoniae* and other *Mycoplasma* species, when requested and as indicated, for non-respiratory specimens.
- Serology (IgM) will continue to be available for the detection of acute *M. pneumoniae* infections.

Actions Required:

- No action is required. Continue current practices to order laboratory testing for *M. pneumoniae*. Consult the Microbiologist/Virologist-on-call (Edmonton 780-407-7121; Calgary 403-944-1200) if nucleic acid amplification testing is desired for other *Mycoplasma* species or for specimen types not mentioned above.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, ProvLab