

## LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE ALERT

An increase in reported laboratory confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease has been detected among residents in the southern suburbs of Milwaukee County. Case-patients' ages range from 50-75 years old with a median age of 62 years.

The State of Wisconsin, Division of Public Health has initiated an investigation into this cluster of cases. They are requesting that patients who meet any of the following criteria be tested for Legionnaire's disease (Ld):

- Hospitalized patients with atypical pneumonia consistent with Ld
- Immune compromised patients with pneumonia
- Patients with pneumonia who fail to respond to treatment with a  $\beta$ -lactam or cephalosporin antibiotics
- Patients with pneumonia who have a travel history [Patients that have traveled away from their home within 14 days before the onset of illness.]

Recommended testing for Legionnaire's disease includes Urine Antigen, Culture, and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

Urine Antigen testing is available at Dynacare Laboratories. Specimens for culture are submitted to the Milwaukee Health Department. PCR testing is performed at a reference laboratory.

**SPECIMEN COLLECTION, TRANSPORT, AND TESTING:**

TEST	SPECIMEN	TRANSPORT CONTAINER	STORAGE / STABILITY	TEST SCHEDULE	TURNAROUND TIME
Urinary Antigen	Urine	Sterile container or Grey Top tube	Refrigerated 14 days	Daily	4-8 hours
Culture	BAL, Pleural fluid, Sputum, Lung Tissue	Sterile container	Refrigerated 4 weeks	Monday-Friday	5-7 days
PCR	BAL, Nasal Washes, Sputum, Nasopharyngeal Swab, Throat Swab	Sterile container	Refrigerated 24 hours	3 times per week	1-3 days

**TEST ORDERING INFORMATION:**

TEST NAME	MNEMONIC	TEST CODE	CPT CODE
Legionella Urine Antigen	LEGION AG	6800312	87449
Legionella Culture	C LEG	6800066	87801
Legionella PCR	LEGION PCR	3526006	87798

**PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:**

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