

Increased *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* activity in Ontario

Update to York Region health care professionals as of November 19, 2024

Ontario is experiencing increased *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* activity, especially in young and school-aged children. *M. pneumoniae* tends to occur in late summer and early fall, with cyclical increases every three to seven years. This year, Public Health Ontario (PHO) has identified that the total specimens tested, total positive specimens, and percent positivity have increased compared to last year, and activity has remained high since August.

Common symptoms of *M. pneumoniae* infection are fever, headache, and a slowly worsening cough. You may have patients seeking medical care due to wheezing, difficulty breathing, or if their symptoms are severe, persistent, or worsening. Those with pre-existing lung conditions may be at higher risk of more severe disease.

Recommended actions for health care professionals

- Consider *M. pneumoniae* infection among patients with community-acquired pneumonia who are not clinically improving on antibiotics known to be ineffective against *M. pneumoniae*, such as beta-lactams
- Test for *M. pneumoniae* using PHO's testing kit or their local/institutional laboratory practice:
 - Specific instructions can be found at [Mycoplasma pneumoniae – Respiratory PCR](#)
 - To order testing supplies from PHO, complete the [Requisition for Specimen Containers and Supplies](#) and fax completed requisitions to your closest [PHO laboratory](#)
 - [Mycoplasma pneumoniae/Chlamydia pneumoniae PCR Kit \(6-Pack\)](#) – collection instructions
- For patients with suspected or confirmed *M. pneumoniae* infection who aren't improving on macrolides, consider using a second-line antibiotic regimen. This is due to macrolide resistance found in a subset of samples tested
- While there is no vaccine for *M. pneumoniae*, continue to promote the recommended vaccines for other respiratory pathogens for all patients, based on age and health status, including the annual influenza vaccine, an updated COVID-19 vaccine, an RSV vaccine (if eligible) and a pneumococcal vaccine (at age 65)

Contact York Region Public Health

If you have any questions or for more information:

- Call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
- Call 905-953-6478 (after 4:30 p.m. and 24/7 on weekends and holidays)
- Visit york.ca/outbreakmanagement for more information and resources