



Mater Pathology introduces a new test panel for Atypical Pneumonia:

Atypical pneumonia refers to pneumonia caused by atypical bacteria, including *Legionella* species, *Chlamydia pneumoniae* and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. It is called “atypical” because the symptoms and signs differ from those of pneumonia due to other common bacteria.

The new PCR panel targets *Legionella* species and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* as well as other rarer causative organisms of pneumonia and includes the following:

#	Description
1	<i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i>
2	<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i>
3	<i>Legionella longbeachae</i>
4	<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>
5	<i>Cryptococcus species (includes C. neoformans & C. gattii)</i>

Previously *Chlamydia* and *Legionella* testing consisted mainly of serology (*Legionella* can be cultured but is fastidious and takes 14 days. A *Legionella* urinary antigen can also be performed but only detects *Legionella pneumophila* type 1). Serology can be performed, however may not be positive in the acute phase and follow-up serology is not always practical.

This new PCR panel will assist in better diagnosis of atypical pneumonia, by allowing detection of the disease in the acute phase. To order this, “**Atypical pneumonia PCR**” can be written on the request form or the individual organism PCR listed if appropriate.

Please note *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* is a separate PCR and will need to be requested in addition to the “Atypical pneumonia PCR”.

Testing will initially be performed three times a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) until test numbers increase.

The Atypical pneumonia PCR panel can be performed on all respiratory samples although nasopharyngeal swabs are not recommended and sputum or other lower respiratory tract samples are preferred.

For any queries or further information please contact Mater’s Microbiology laboratory at telephone 07 3163 8168.



Mater Pathology now offers the following PCRs on-site for respiratory pathogens:

- Atypical pneumonia PCR
 - *Chlamydia pneumoniae* and *C. psittaci*
 - *Legionella* species
 - *Cryptococcus* species
- *Bordetella pertussis* PCR
- CMV PCR
- HSV PCR
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* PCR
- *Pneumocystis jirovecii* PCR*
- Respiratory virus PCR panel:
 - Influenza A*
 - Influenza B
 - Respiratory syncytial virus
 - Rhinovirus/Enterovirus composite
 - Parainfluenza 1, 2 and 3
 - Adenovirus
 - Human Metapneumovirus
- For PCRs not performed on-site Mater Pathology arrange testing and reporting at various reference laboratories

* Positive results on these pathogens will be referred to a reference laboratory for further testing.

Mater Pathology also offers a full range of bacterial and fungal culture on respiratory samples.

Further services provided include:

Test	Recommended specimen
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) PCR	Urine Swabs: eye, nose and throat Bronchial lavage Amniotic fluid Tissue* Blood*
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> PCR <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	Urine Swabs: genital
Adenovirus PCR	Swabs: eye
Herpes simplex virus 1 & 2, Varicella zoster virus	Swabs: skin, mouth, vesicle, genital, perianal Corneal scraping Bronchial lavage Tissue*

* Specimen referred to a Reference Laboratory for testing.

The recommended swab for specimen collection is viral transport medium or dry swab.