



Referral of specimens for confirmation of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection and detection of macrolide resistance markers

The Respiratory and Vaccine Preventable Bacteria Reference Unit (RVPBRU) provides a (charged) *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* primary diagnostic service and a (free of charge) service for confirmation of infection on samples tested positive locally and for identification of presumptive mycoplasma isolates.

In addition, detection of molecular markers known to confer macrolide resistance to *M. pneumoniae* is offered free of charge on culture and/or PCR positive samples. This test provides an indicative result only. A definitive result can only be obtained by MIC analysis of *M. pneumoniae* isolates; however as this microorganism is rarely isolated by culture, a molecular approach is used to quickly assess macrolide susceptibility.

For exceptional cases or suspected clusters, please contact RVPBRU before sending samples.

Submit samples to RVPBRU together with Request Form [R1](#).

For further information refer to [BRD user manual](#).

SPECIMENS*	PHE Laboratory	Test performed	Further tests (on PCR positive samples)
Nose and/or throat swab (at least 200µL of liquid transport medium)	RVPBRU	In-house real time PCR	Molecular detection of macrolide resistance markers and Mycoplasma culture.
<p><u>Please note:</u> 1) Charcoal swabs are not suitable for PCR;</p> <p>2) Viral Transport Medium (VTM - Green top) is not designed to maintain viable mycoplasma cells, therefore culture will be attempted only on PCR positive samples referred in Virus, Chlamydia & Mycoplasma (VCM - Red top) transport medium.</p>			
Naso-pharyngeal aspirate, tracheal aspirate, bronco-alveolar lavage, sputum, joint fluid, tissue samples.	RVPBRU	In-house real time PCR	Molecular detection of macrolide resistance markers and Mycoplasma culture.
CSF (at least 200µL) <u>Please send with paired respiratory sample.</u>	RVPBRU	In-house real time PCR	Molecular detection of macrolide resistance markers and Mycoplasma culture.
DNA extract from clinical sample (at least 30µL) <u>Please send with paired extraction control.</u>	RVPBRU	In-house real time PCR	Molecular detection of macrolide resistance markers.
Presumptive <i>Mycoplasma spp.</i> isolate	RVPBRU	Confirmation of identification and speciation	Molecular detection of macrolide resistance markers (<i>M. pneumoniae</i> only).
<p><u>Please note:</u> <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> serology is NOT offered by RVPBRU</p>			

* Shipment of Infectious Substances (Cat. A, UN2814 or UN2900) and Biological Specimens (Cat. B, UN3373) must comply with relevant [guidelines](#).

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