

Revised Specimen Collection Requirements for Detection of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* in Upper Respiratory Tract Specimens

To: Clients of UR Medicine Labs

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The manufacturer of the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) which we use for detection of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* in upper respiratory tract specimens (Illumigene® *Mycoplasma* assay by Meridian Bioscience, Inc.) has modified the test and revised specimen collection requirements. Major changes incorporated with the modified test which will be implemented on April 3, 2017, include the following:

- Only throat swab specimens are acceptable for testing. **Nasopharyngeal swab specimens cannot be tested.**
- Throat swabs must be collected on routine culture swabs and transported in the swab sleeve container. **Do NOT place swabs in UTM. Swabs placed into UTM cannot be tested.** In accordance with New York State Laws, UR Medicine Labs Patient Service Centers are not able to collect throat swabs.
- The modified test does not require separate specimen extraction steps which allows us to perform the test 7 days per week.
- The modified test will be implemented on April 3, 2017.

For additional information contact Dr. Hardy by any of the methods listed above.