



MEMORANDUM

TO: Senior Leadership Team
FROM: Emerging & Re-emerging Infections Network
DATE: August 22, 2024
SUBJECT: *Mycoplasma Pneumoniae* Cases in Nova Scotia

An increase in *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* cases has been observed in Nova Scotia. In general, adults and children (usually over 5 years of age) with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* present with features of atypical pneumonia characterized by fever, headache, malaise and dry or occasionally productive cough. Signs of bilateral involvement such as crackles or wheeze are usually present. Chest x-ray, if performed, often shows bilateral patchy (non-lobar) opacification or interstitial infiltrates. Of note, it is possible to be colonized with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* therefore treatment decisions should be based on clinical findings consistent with atypical pneumonia, not microbiology results alone.

- For ambulatory and hospitalized adults with community acquired pneumonia, consider **adding** Doxycycline (or Azithromycin/Clarithromycin as an alternative agent), particularly if features of atypical pneumonia, not responding to beta-lactams, age 65 years or older, or comorbidities (e.g. chronic heart, lung, liver, or renal disease, diabetes mellitus, alcohol dependence, or immunosuppression).
- Testing for mycoplasma is generally not required in ambulatory adults or children with community acquired pneumonia.
- For ambulatory pediatric patients, empiric therapy with amoxicillin should remain the first line approach for pneumonia. For signs/symptoms consistent with atypical pneumonia, **adding** a macrolide (Azithromycin or Clarithromycin) may be indicated.
- Adult and pediatric patients failing Amoxicillin therapy should have a re-evaluation and consideration of adding atypical coverage.

For current treatment recommendations in adults, see Firstline- <https://firstline.org/nsha/>

For current treatment recommendations in children, see Firstline- <https://app.firstline.org/clients/7-iwk-health-centre>



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