

CD Tip of the Month: Legionnaire's (12/08)

Tip 1: Diagnosis of Legionnaire's

Both lab confirmation AND the diagnosis of pneumonia (clinically or via x-ray) is needed. A positive lab **without** pneumonia is *Pontiac Fever*.

Tip 2: Laboratory Case Confirmation

One of the following lab requirements **must** be met:

Culture: isolation of any Legionella organism from respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid or other normally sterile fluid. The isolation of any serogroup of legionella is a confirmed case.

OR

Urine antigen: detection of Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 antigen in urine using validated reagents. Urine antigen is NOT the same thing as a culture.

OR

Seroconversion: fourfold or greater rise in specific serum antibody titer to Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 using validated reagents. A fourfold rise in serum antibody to any serogroup besides pneumophila serogroup 1 is a SUSPECT case.

Tip 3: MDSS Case Investigation Form

The diagnosis must be marked in MDSS under the clinical information section. This is often left unmarked.

Clinical Information

Diagnosis:

- Legionnaires' Disease (Pneumonia, X-ray diagnosed) Pontiac Fever (Fever, myalgia without pneumonia)
 Unknown Other _____

Travel, dental work, hospital exposure should only be noted for the two weeks prior to onset. Please give dates, if available.

Please collect information about worksites and/or school. This can be very important in outbreak situations.

Tips were provided by:
Shannon Johnson
(517-335-8165)

