




Memorandum Micro #209

To: UNCHS Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians,
Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads, and
Supervisors

From:  Melissa B. Miller, PhD, Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

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Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories

Date: August 25, 2022

Subject: New *Legionella* PCR Test

Beginning August 29, 2022, the Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at UNC Medical Center will offer *Legionella* PCR testing on lower respiratory tract specimens (EPIC: "Legionella PCR" Test ID: LAB192186). This test will replace *Legionella* Culture (Test ID: LAB902). *Legionella* urinary antigen test remains available (Test ID: LAB886) as an adjunct to PCR for the diagnosis of Legionnaires' Disease.

The Legionella PCR test is a standalone order and is not automatically included in any bacterial culture order. Providers should update their preference lists accordingly.

The new laboratory-developed PCR test detects and reports both *Legionella pneumophila* and non-pneumophila *Legionella* species. The sensitivity of the PCR is superior to that of culture and the time to result significantly shorter. Note that the *Legionella* urinary antigen test only detects *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1.

Testing will be performed daily Monday through Friday. Additional information is available at the UNCMC McLendon Clinical Laboratories website:

<https://www.unccmedicalcenter.org/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/available-tests/legionella-pcr/>

Questions can be directed to the UNCMC Clinical Molecular Microbiology Laboratory at 984-974-1820 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.