

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Nova Scotia Health Care Providers and Health Service Directors

From: Dr. Todd Hatchette, Service Chief, Central Zone Microbiology
Charles Heinstein, Manager, Central Zone Microbiology

Date: February 8, 2024

Subject: **Discontinuation of Immunofluorescence Microscopy (DFA) for detection of *Pneumocystis jirovecii***

Starting February 12, the Central Zone Microbiology lab will no longer be using immunofluorescence microscopy (DFA) for the detection of *Pneumocystis jirovecii*. CZ Microbiology will continue to provide PCR testing. When PCR identifies the presence of *Pneumocystis jirovecii*, PCR Ct values show good correlation with the presence of organisms on DFA. With the discontinuation of DFA, the Ct value will now be provided and can be interpreted using the values below.

CT value less than 27:	Pneumocystis infection likely.
CT value 27-30:	Possible infection or colonization with <i>Pneumocystis</i> .
CT value >30:	Infection unlikely with <i>Pneumocystis</i> , probable colonization.

The PCR result should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical circumstances.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the laboratory at 902-473-2120, Dr. Hatchette at 902-473-6885 or Charles Heinstein at 902-473-2231.