

April 20, 2018

PERTUSSIS PCR TESTING

The Methodist Pathology Center is pleased to announce that Pertussis/Parapertussis PCR testing will be available in house starting May 3, 2018. Previously, the testing was sent to a reference laboratory. This is anticipated to reduce turnaround time for results.

In addition to testing for *Bordetella pertussis*, the new in-house assay will also test for *Bordetella parapertussis*, which can cause a disease similar to pertussis but with typically milder symptoms.

The test order will change to: **Pertussis and Parapertussis PCR**

The new specimen requirement for the in-house test is:

Swab in viral transport medium (VTM). This will enable testing for other respiratory pathogens (i.e. flu, RSV, etc) to be performed on the same specimen.

The test results will be reported as follows:

- *B. pertussis* Positive or Negative
- *B. parapertussis* Positive or Negative

Please direct any questions to Dr. Tess Karre, Director of Microbiology (4-4578), or Jennifer Krifka, Microbiology Service Leader, (4-3147).