

# Percentage of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infections up since September 2023, research shows

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The percentage of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infections decreased during the pandemic, but has increased since September 2023, according to research [published](#) in the Feb. 22 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Chris Edens, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues used data from the CDC National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) to compare the percentage of *M. pneumoniae*-related diagnoses among all pneumonia emergency department visits before (January 2018 to April 2020), during (May 2020 to August 2023), and after (September 2023 to December 2023) the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, during the same period, data from the New Vaccine Surveillance Network (NVSN) were analyzed to compare the percentage of positive *M. pneumoniae* laboratory test results in the United States.

The researchers observed a decrease in the percentage of *M. pneumoniae*-related diagnoses among pneumonia emergency department visits reported in NSSP, from 1.15 to 0.35 percent during the prepandemic period and pandemic period, respectively; this was followed by an increase to 0.89 percent during the postpandemic period.

The corresponding percentage of laboratory test results within the NVSN that were positive for *M. pneumoniae* decreased from 1.2 to 0.04 percent and then increased to 0.53 percent. Thirteen of 14 *M. pneumoniae*-positive specimens that were tested for macrolide resistance during September 2023 to January 2024 were susceptible to macrolides.

"Providers should consider *M. pneumoniae* as part of the differential diagnosis for cases of community-acquired pneumonia during fall and winter respiratory illness seasons," the authors write.

**More information:** Chris Edens et al, Notes from the Field: Reemergence of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Infections in Children and Adolescents After the COVID-19 Pandemic, United States, 2018–2024, *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (2024). [DOI](#):

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