

DIATHERIX Laboratories adds *Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Haemophilus influenza* (Type B) and Panton-Valentine leukocidin (PVL) gene to the Respiratory Infections Panel, Bacterial Pneumonia Panel and Ear Nose and Throat Panel

***Moraxella catarrhalis* “M. cat”**

Causes disease ranging from acute, localized infections such as otitis media, sinusitis and bronchopneumonia to life-threatening, systemic diseases including endocarditis and meningitis. Often the cause of lower respiratory tract infections in elderly patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, chronic bronchitis and frank pneumonia.

Is not frequently carried by healthy adults, but may be carried by children and older adults.

***Haemophilus influenza* (Type B) “Hib”**

Causes invasive diseases such as pneumonia, occult febrile bacteremia, meningitis, epiglottitis, septic arthritis, cellulitis, otitis media, purulent pericarditis and other less common infections such as endocarditis and osteomyelitis.

Risk groups include infants and young children. American Indian/Alaska Native populations are also at increased risk.

Panton-Valentine leukocidin gene “PVL”

Panton-Valentine leukocidin creates pores in cells so that the insides of the cell spill out, destroying the cell. *Staphylococcus aureus* producing PVL has been associated with a worsening of pneumonia, sometimes referred to as necrotizing pneumonia, which is correlated with a lower survival rate of pulmonary patients. PVL also destroys cells that are a part of the immune system, making the infection more difficult to treat.