



OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
STATE OF ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

CONTACT:

Abdon.Pallasch@illinoiscomptroller.gov 312-835-3317

Jamey.Dunn@illinoisComptroller.gov 217-6701712

**TESTING AT COMPTROLLER'S SPRINGFIELD OFFICE FINDS
LEGIONELLA BACTERIA IN WATER SYSTEM NOT ACCESSIBLE
TO OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDING**

Comptroller informed staff immediately after getting notice of the preliminary results

SPRINGFIELD —The following notice was sent out to employees of the Office of the Illinois Comptroller late Tuesday afternoon:

Dear IOC Staff:

Please be advised that preliminary testing results that our office was verbally informed about late this afternoon indicate the presence of Legionella bacteria in the hot water supply inlet and outlet into the building at 325 W. Adams.

This is a follow up to my earlier email notifying you last week that we conducted testing for *Legionella* bacteria, the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease. Out of an abundance of caution, we decided to work with the building's landlord to conduct water testing at the facility at 325 W. Adams after reports of the bacteria being found at the Capitol Complex. To be clear, 325 West Adams is not part of the Capitol Complex water supply. The testing is being performed by Mr. Bill Williams with Reliable Environmental Solutions, Inc along with TemEnvironmental, Inc. based in Springfield.

Specifically, two samples have had preliminary positive results for Legionella. The two samples were collected from parts of the water system that are not accessible to occupants of the building.

All test results from water sources accessible to the occupants of the building have tested negative for *Legionella*. We have been advised that the transmission of this bacteria in normal, day-to-day office operations is unlikely.

The Office will continue to be advised by Mr. Williams on the next steps toward a water management plan that will involve flushing the entire water system immediately. A more conclusive final result of this testing is expected by the end of next week.

As reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Legionnaires' disease is contracted by inhaling vapor contaminated with the bacteria and is not contracted by drinking water or spread through person-to-person contact.

The health and safety of our employees and visitors is our top priority, and we will inform you of updated information when it becomes available. For more on *Legionella* bacteria and Legionnaires' disease, please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health's website (or see below) <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/legionellosis>.

Due to our office receiving this information near the close of business, we recognize that this email is going out at a time when many of our employees have left work for the day. Nonetheless, but we wanted to inform you of these results as soon as humanly possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or Mr. Cortez Gillespie at 785-6359.

Sincerely,

Marvin Becker
Assistant Comptroller

Alzheimer's Disease	
Asthma	+
Cancer	
Chronic Diseases	+
Diabetes	+
Diseases A-Z	
HIV/AIDS	+
Heart Disease & Stroke	+
Hepatitis	
Infectious Diseases	+
Influenza (Flu)	+
Legionnaires' Disease	+
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)	+
West Nile Virus (WNV)	+

Legionnaires' Disease

*** IDPH and Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs continue to collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help ensure the safety and well-being of residents and staff at the Illinois Veterans' Home in Quincy after outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease since 2015. IDPH requested epidemiological assistance from the CDC, who sent a team of environmental and infectious disease specialists to Quincy. The CDC released three reports on the outbreaks (see on the right menu under Publications).

In the 2017 report, sections have been redacted to protect patient confidentiality.

What is legionellosis?

Legionellosis is a bacterial disease of the lungs caused by *Legionella pneumophila*. The disease can range from a mild respiratory illness to severe pneumonia and death. The most common form of legionellosis is known as "Legionnaires' disease," named after an outbreak in 1976 when many people who attended an American Legion conference in Philadelphia became ill.

How common is legionellosis?

It is estimated that between 8,000 and 18,000 people are hospitalized with legionellosis in the United States each year. An additional unknown number are infected with the *Legionella* bacterium but have mild symptoms or no illness at all. The disease can occur at any time of the year, but is more common in the summer and early autumn.

RESOURCES

[IDPH Legionella Media Call 1.5.2018](#)

[CDC Legionnaires' Disease Fact Sheet](#)

[CDC - What Clinicians Need to Know about Legionnaires' Disease](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[CDC Trip Report - Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy \(2015\)](#)

[CDC Trip Report - Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy \(2016\)](#)

[CDC Trip Report - Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy \(2017\)](#)

Zika Virus	+
Birth, Death, Other Records	
Nacimientos, Defunciones, Otros Registros	
Diseases and Conditions	-
Alzheimer's Disease	
Asthma	-
Cancer	
Chronic Diseases	-
Diabetes	-
Diseases A-Z	
HIV/AIDS	-
Heart Disease & Stroke	-
Hepatitis	
Infectious Diseases	-
Influenza (Flu)	-
Legionnaires' Disease	-
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)	-
West Nile Virus (WNV)	-
Zika Virus	-

How are people infected with *legionella*?

Legionella bacteria are widely distributed, and normally grow best in warm water environments. They have been found in creeks and ponds, water taps (primarily hot water taps), hot water tanks, cooling towers and evaporative condensers, whirlpool spas, and decorative fountains.

Most people contract the disease by inhaling mist or vapor from a water source contaminated with the bacteria. In some cases, the disease may be transmitted by other ways, such as aspirating contaminated water. The disease is not contracted by drinking contaminated water, and person-to-person spread of legionellosis does not occur.

Outbreaks occur following the exposure of many individuals to a common source of the bacteria in the environment. When a single case occurs, it is extremely difficult to pinpoint a source. Environmental testing is recommended only when multiple cases have the same potential exposure.

Because man-made water systems are the most likely source of *Legionella*, appropriate maintenance is very important. Water temperatures can be raised to reduce transmission, and chemical treatments or biocides can be administered to water systems to inhibit growth of bacteria.

What are the usual symptoms of legionellosis?

The incubation period, the time between exposure and onset of illness, is up to 12 days. Legionellosis usually begins with symptoms like high fever (102 degrees F - 105 degrees F), chills, muscle pain, and headache. Other symptoms may include cough (which may be dry or productive), shortness of breath, chest pain, or even gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea. Legionnaires' disease cannot be distinguished from other causes of pneumonia based on symptoms alone. Laboratory testing is required to establish this diagnosis.

- Lab Testing & Services
- Life Stages & Populations
- Prevention & Wellness
- Provider and Partner Resources
- Opioids

How is legionellosis diagnosed?

A chest exam and/or x-ray is usually performed to confirm a diagnosis of pneumonia. The most common laboratory test is the urinary antigen test, which detects the presence of *Legionella* antigen in the urine. A diagnosis of legionellosis can be confirmed by successful culture (isolation and growth) of the bacteria from specimens taken from an ill patient.

What is the treatment for legionellosis?

Hospitalization may be required for patients with legionellosis. Most cases can be successfully treated with antibiotics. There is no vaccine to prevent legionellosis.

How are cases of legionellosis reported?

Legionellosis is a reportable disease in the state of Illinois, and cases must be reported to the local health department within seven days. Timely reporting allows identification of additional cases and control of possible contaminated sources.

Menu Link:
[Diseases A-Z](#)

<i>Protecting health, improving lives.</i>			
USABILITY	RESOURCES	QUICK LINKS	TRENDING TOPICS @IDPH
Accessibility	Advisory Boards Office of the Inspector General Centers for Disease Control Governor Bruce Rauner's Office Illinois Jobs Illinois.gov home page Employment Opportunities	File a Complaint Diseases A-Z List FOIA Requests Health Data IDPH Calendar Laws & Rules Forms & Publications	<p>Everyone deserves to feel safe and respected in their relationship. Learn what a healthy relationship looks like.... https://t.co/BNH3KBO48Q - 5 hours 55 min ago</p> <p>@CDCMMWR publishes 2018 #immunization schedules. Key updates</p>

