

Preventing Legionnaires' disease at hotels

Legionnaires' outbreak at Minnesota Hotel

Updated: 7/14/2021

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is currently [investigating an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease](#) associated with an Albert Lea hotel. So far, they have identified two laboratory-confirmed cases among people in unrelated groups. Both have been hospitalized, one has been discharged; one has not. Additional cases are continuing to be investigated.

What is Legionnaires' disease?

- Legionnaire's disease is caused by the bacteria *Legionella*.
- It is spread by inhaling the fine spray from water sources containing *Legionella* bacteria – not person to person.
- It is frequently spread at hotels and resorts through showers, unoccupied floors, fountains, cooling towers and/or hot tubs and spas.
- The time between exposure to the bacteria and the start of symptoms can be up to 14 days.
- It is a bacterial pneumonia that can be severe.
- Symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, chills, shortness of breath, loss of appetite and coughing.
- Not everyone who is exposed to *Legionella* bacteria develops Legionnaires' disease.

How to prevent a Legionnaires' outbreak at your hotel:

1. Take [this quiz](#) to see if your building needs a water management plan
2. Create or update your buildings water management plan using [ASHRAE Standard 188: Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems \(ANSI approved\)](#) or the [CDC's toolkit on Developing a Water Management Program to Reduce *Legionella* Growth and Spread in Buildings](#)
3. Follow guidance for ensuring water quality after low occupancy
 - [Ensuring Water Quality in Building Premise Plumbing \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation](#)
 - [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\): Information on Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings with Low or No Use](#)

Contact

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