

Health Advisory: Legionnaires' Disease in Albert Lea

Minnesota Department of Health, Thurs Oct 10 13:00 CDT 2019

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, urgent care centers, and convenience clinics in **Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, and Waseca** counties.

Hospitals and clinics: Please distribute to infection preventionists, internists, infectious disease doctors, emergency department staff and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

Health care providers:

- Consider Legionnaires' disease in residents, staff, and visitors of St. John's Fountain Lake Community in Albert Lea or who present with fever, respiratory symptoms, muscle aches, chills, fatigue and additional symptoms of Legionnaires' disease listed below.
- Be aware that environmental testing from the facility has yielded a variety of *Legionella* species, including *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 (Lp1), *L. pneumophila* non-serogroup 1, and non-*L. pneumophila* species.
- Test residents, staff, and visitors from this facility and who have symptoms with the *Legionella* urinary antigen test (detects Lp1 only) and, when possible, obtain sputum and order a *Legionella*-specific culture to identify non-Lp1 spp.
- Report all cases with positive *Legionella* spp. and contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414.

Background and Symptoms

One case of Legionnaires' disease with onset of September 26 was identified in a resident of St. John's Fountain Lake Community in Albert Lea. One case was also identified in April 2019 and 5 cases, in residents and visitors, in 2018. The facility remains on water restrictions and a water testing program.

Symptoms of Legionnaires' disease include:

- muscle aches
- chills
- shortness of breath
- headache
- fatigue
- loss of appetite
- coughing

Symptoms are often followed by high fever (102-105°F), pneumonia, and occasionally abdominal pain and/or diarrhea.

Testing

Lp1 can be detected by a *Legionella* urinary antigen test. *Legionella*-specific culture of sputum/other lower respiratory specimens can identify Lp1 and other *Legionella* spp. MDH is able to perform *Legionella*-specific cultures on available sputum specimens; contact us at the number below for information on submission. Serology is NOT recommended for diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease.

Further Information

- [Legionellosis \(Legionella\): Legionnaires' Disease and Pontiac Fever](#)
MDH website about Legionnaires' Disease

A copy of this HAN is available at:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/index.html>

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.