



**CDPH Health Notification:
Multistate Cluster of Legionellosis Associated with
Travel to Anaheim, California**

November 14, 2017

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a health notification on November 9, 2017 regarding a multistate cluster of legionellosis associated with travel to or residence in Anaheim, California. CDPH reports eleven patients among whom eight visited Disneyland during their incubation period. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) has identified an additional case in an LA County resident who also traveled to Anaheim and visited Disneyland. LAC DPH is currently interviewing other LA County *Legionella* cases to assess for relevant local travel.

CDPH is requesting that health care providers ask patients with legionellosis about travel to Anaheim or Disneyland between August and November 2017 and to report any such cases to their local health department as soon as possible.

The preferred diagnostic tests for Legionnaires' disease are culture of lower respiratory secretions on selective media (Buffered Charcoal Yeast Extract [BCYE] agar) and the *Legionella* urinary antigen test; for optimal sensitivity, both tests should be ordered. For LA County cases, if *Legionella* culture is not available, specimens can be tested at the LAC DPH Public Health Laboratory.

CDPH requests that any available *Legionella* respiratory culture isolates from persons with a travel history to Anaheim or Disneyland between August and November 2017 be saved for further testing.

In LA County, providers should report all confirmed and suspect *Legionella* cases to the LAC DPH Morbidity Unit by faxing a [Confidential Morbidity Report \(CMR\)](#) to 888-397-3778 or by calling 888-397-3993.

Contact the LAC DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program with questions:

- Weekdays 8:30am-5pm: call 213-240-7941
- After hours: call 213-974-1234 and ask for the physician on call.

Note that for residents of Long Beach and Pasadena, *Legionella* cases should be reported to the respective health department:

- Long Beach Health and Human Services: fax a CMR to (562) 570-4374 or call (562) 570-4302.
- Pasadena Health Department: fax a CMR to (626)744-6115 or call (626) 744-6089.

The full CDPH notification is on the next page.



California Department of Public Health

November 9, 2017

Multistate Cluster of Legionellosis Associated with Travel to Anaheim, California

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in coordination with the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), other local and state health departments, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is investigating a multistate cluster of legionellosis associated with travel to or residence in Anaheim, California. Of eleven patients identified to date, eight have visited Disneyland during their incubation period. The exact source of illness is unknown and is under active investigation.

As of November 8, 2017, eleven persons who either visited or lived in Anaheim during their incubation period have laboratory-confirmed *Legionella*. Among the eleven case-patients, six are California residents from four local health jurisdictions (LHJs); and five are non-California residents. Reported illness onset dates have ranged from September 4 to 30, 2017. Case-patients have ranged in age from 52 to 94 years (median age 67 years); eight are female. Among the eleven case-patients, ten have been hospitalized and there has been one death reported. Patient interviews revealed that eight of eleven case-patients visited Disneyland during September 2017. However, there is no ride or place (e.g., restaurant, shop) that has been identified as a common exposure; and there is no common hotel among these patients.

Patients infected with *Legionella* may experience cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headaches; patients can also present with diarrhea, nausea, and confusion. *Legionella* infection can present as two distinct clinical pictures, Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac fever. Legionnaires' disease is a serious illness characterized by pneumonia, while Pontiac fever is a milder, self-limited illness characterized by fever and muscle aches without pneumonia. Legionnaires' disease has a high rate of hospitalization with a case-fatality rate of approximately 10%. Individuals older than 50 years of age and those with a weakened immune system or other chronic conditions are at risk for Legionnaires' disease.

People can become infected with *L. pneumophila* by breathing in small droplets of water in the air which are contaminated with *L. pneumophila*. Outbreaks of legionellosis are suspected when there are two or more cases of illness with exposure to the same location within a 12-month period. Outbreaks are most commonly associated with aerosolization of water from man-made water systems, including cooling towers or air conditioning units, decorative fountains, hot water tanks and heaters, large plumbing systems, and hot tubs contaminated with *L. pneumophila*.

The CDPH, in collaboration with the OCHCA, is working closely with the involved LHJs to interview case-patients to better determine possible exposures in Anaheim or Disneyland. The CDPH requests health care providers to ask about travel to Anaheim or Disneyland for any patients with legionellosis reported between August and November 2017 and to report any such cases to their local health department as soon as possible.

In addition, because all cases have been identified by urine antigen testing, the CDPH requests that LHJs work with hospitals and health care providers to save any available *Legionella* respiratory culture isolates from persons with a travel history to Anaheim or Disneyland between August and November 2017. The CDPH also requests that for any newly identified cases of legionellosis in a person with travel history to Anaheim or Disneyland during their incubation period, a *Legionella* respiratory culture be performed to allow for comparison to potential environmental samples and to link to other case-patients through molecular testing. Respiratory specimens and isolates can be sent to a local public health lab and forwarded to the CDPH Microbial Diseases Laboratory.

For additional information, please refer to:

CDPH Legionellosis:

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Legionellosis\(Legionnaires' Disease_PontiacFever\).aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Legionellosis(Legionnaires' Disease_PontiacFever).aspx)

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/index.html>