

Legionnaires' Disease

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Legionnaires' Disease Latest News

Legionnaires' disease outbreak in New York City recently claimed its first life, with at least 67 people falling ill and dozens needing hospital care.

About Legionnaires' Disease

- It is a **severe form of a lung infection (pneumonia)** caused by a **bacterium** known as **legionella**.
- The name comes from a **1976 outbreak** among **people attending** an **American Legion convention** in Philadelphia, where the disease was **first identified**.
- Legionella can **also cause Pontiac fever**. This is a **milder, flu-like illness** that doesn't infect your lungs.

Legionnaires' Disease Transmission

- Legionella is **found naturally in freshwater**, such as lakes and rivers. It can also be **found in soil**.
- But people usually only **get sick** from it **when it grows and spreads** in **man-made water systems**.

- These systems can include **hot tubs, fountains**, and the **plumbing systems of large buildings**, such as hotels or nursing homes.
- Most people catch Legionnaires' disease by **breathing in mist or small drops of water** that contain the bacteria.
- You usually **can't get infected by drinking water** that contains the bacteria **unless you aspirate it** (accidentally breathe the water into your lungs).
- It is **not contagious**, meaning it does not spread from person to person.
- Older adults, people with weakened immune systems, and people who smoke have a higher risk of getting Legionnaires' disease.

Legionnaires' Disease Symptoms

- It causes **pneumonia-like symptoms** that start two to 14 days after exposure to Legionella.
- Patients usually present with **fever, cough, shortness of breath**, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, and may have **gastrointestinal symptoms** such as abdominal pain and diarrhoea.
- In **severe cases, neurological symptoms** (e.g., **confusion**) and **respiratory failure** may occur, and **some cases** may result in **death**.

Legionnaires' Disease Treatment

- Treating right away with **antibiotics most often cures** Legionnaires' disease.
- But some people still have problems after treatment.
- Currently, there is **no vaccine** available for LD.

News: ETVB

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/legionnaires-disease/>

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