

## Health Advisory: Legionnaires' Disease in Duluth Area

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed, Dec 21 10:00 CST 2022

### Action Steps

**Local and tribal health department:** Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, travel clinics, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction in **Carlton, Cook, Lake and Saint Louis** counties.

**Hospitals, clinics and other facilities:** Please forward to pediatricians, occupational health and employee health leadership, infection preventionists, infectious disease physicians, emergency department staff, hospitalists, primary care clinicians, pharmacists, and all other health care providers who might see patients with respiratory illness.

**Health care providers:**

- Consider Legionnaires' disease for patients:
  - with muscle aches, chills, shortness of breath, headache, fatigue, weakness, loss of appetite, and coughing followed by high fever (102-105°F), pneumonia, and occasional abdominal pain and/or diarrhea
  - who also live at, work at, or visit Woodland Garden Apartments, 127 E Calvary Rd, Duluth MN 55803, and were at the building within two weeks prior to their onset of illness.
- Test patients who meet both symptoms and location using the *Legionella* urinary antigen test.
- Contact MDH at 651-201-5414 (1-877-676-5414) for consultation. This on-call number is available to health professionals 24/7.
- Report all cases of Legionnaires' disease: [Reporting Legionellosis \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/report.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/report.html)

### Situation

MDH has been informed of two laboratory-confirmed Legionnaires' disease cases with onsets in October 2022 and December 2022 connected with the Woodland Garden Apartments in Duluth, MN. Two cases of *Legionella* with a common apartment building is concerning as outbreaks in this setting are relatively rare. The disease carries high morbidity or mortality and this setting is a seniors-only apartment building, which increases the concern as advanced age is a major risk factor for Legionnaires' disease. Given that Legionnaires' disease can mimic so many other respiratory illnesses, MDH encourages testing in patients that may be connected to this location.

### Testing

Test patients with clinically compatible illnesses that may be linked to this building using the *Legionella* urinary antigen test. *Legionella*-specific culture of available sputum/other lower respiratory specimens may also be valuable to the investigation. MDH can perform *Legionella*-specific cultures on available sputum/respiratory specimens from patients at no charge; contact us at the number below for information on submission. Serology is NOT recommended for diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease.

### For More Information

- [MDH: Legionellosis \(Legionella\): Legionnaires' Disease and Pontiac Fever \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/index.html)
- [CDC: Legionella \(Legionnaires' Disease and Pontiac Fever\) \(https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html)

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(http://www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han)

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.