

LEGIONELLOSIS UPDATE 2003 (01)

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A ProMED-mail post <<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases

<<http://www.isid.org>>

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Date: Wed 3 Sep 2003

From: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

Source: Delaware Wave 3 Sep 2003 [edited]

<<http://www.delmarvanow.com/bethanybeach/stories/20030903/178757.html>>

Legionnaires' disease cases reach 22 in Delaware

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The total number of legionnaires' disease cases in Delaware has reached 22 so far in 2003, state health officials said Tue 26 Aug 2003.

The Delaware Department of Public Health (DPH) has been tracking a rise in the number of legionnaires' disease cases since the beginning of 2003. On average, between 1995 and 2002, the state saw only 14 cases. Of the 22 so far, 14 of those infected have been Sussex County residents. 13 were from New Castle County, one from Kent County, and another 4 were out-of-state residents who were admitted to hospital in the state. 3 remain in hospital. 2 patients (one of whom was from Sussex County) died from the disease, while the rest were released following treatment.

According to the DPH, the patients' ages ranged from 35 to 81 years. They worked at a variety of occupations and so far displayed no signs of being infected from any common sources. All but 3 of the patients were known to have risk factors associated with being infected with legionnaires' disease: smoking, chronic lung disease, compromised immune systems, kidney problems, or diabetes.

The increase in Delaware's legionnaires' disease cases, however, reflects a rise in occurrence of the disease throughout the region, health officials note. As of 17 Aug 2003, the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Washington DC have seen a total of 304 cases. Those same areas saw a total of 117 reported by this time in 2002.

State health officials said they are still cooperating with investigators from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the cases. Officials from CDC are still investigating whether the increase is real or simply an effect of better reporting mechanisms and more attention being paid to diagnosing suspected patients.

[byline: John Duffy]

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[2] New Zealand

Date: Thu, 4 Sep 2003

From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>

Source: Stuff.com.nz [edited]

<<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/print/0,1478,2647949a7144,FF.html>>

More cases of legionnaires' at police HQ

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The number of police staff confirmed with legionnaires' disease after working at the Counties Manukau headquarters has risen to 14. An additional 6 staff members were waiting to hear whether they had contracted the bacterial condition after working at Harlech House in Otahuhu.

The building was closed in early June 2003, and work began this week on renovations, including replacing the water tower with a dry air conditioning system and upgrading toilets and showers.

The Police Association has employed an independent investigator, lawyer Richard Earwaker, to review the work and ensure it met international standards. Association vice president Richard Middleton said the police had agreed to the review, aimed to give staff confidence the revamped building is a safe working environment.

Mr Earwaker would compare international standards to work on Harlech House, said Mr Middleton. He would also make recommendations on any further work to ensure the building is safe before staff return.

Mr Middleton this week asked management when a medical report on 400 staff tested for legionnaires' disease would be made available.

The cases confirmed so far dated from 2000 -- when legionella was first found in the building -- to February 2003.

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