

LEGIONELLOSIS, HOTEL - USA (FLORIDA)

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

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<<http://cfn13.com/StoryHeadline.aspx?id=13085>>

Legionnaires' disease found at Florida resort

A Daytona Beach Shores hotel remains closed Sun 5 Feb 2006 because of the threat of Legionnaires' disease. Douglas Kosarek, the Vice President of Ocean Waters Development, said that they voluntarily moved guests out of the Seagarden Inn, after the Volusia County Health Department notified him that 2 former guests were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease. The disease is caused by a bacteria found in warm water, and people affected by the disease inhale the bacteria in a vapor or mist. Though there has been no direct link to the hotel yet, managers say they wanted to do the right thing and be proactive.

Kosarek said: "Tests that the County Health Department had run, they're not back yet, and we determined that that was too long to wait. So in order not to put any guests at further risk, or in order to be 100 percent cautious and prudent, we decided to relocate all of our guests." Health officials say symptoms usually show up within 14 days of exposure. Kosarek says the 2 diagnosed cases showed up early last month [January 2006].

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[The most reliable link to the facility would be cultured Legionella from a water tower or other aqueous source at the hotel being shown to be identical to isolates from the 2 affected individuals. Since many cases of legionellosis are diagnosed serologically and not by culture, this may not be possible. - Mod.LL]

[ProMED-mail does not usually report on "small" outbreaks of legionellosis. In the above situation, the involved location of the source of the infection is most likely a hotel so that the possibility of additional cases appearing as "sporadic cases" elsewhere (either in the USA or among travellers from other countries) is there. By posting this, it further serves as an alert to the health sector of the occurrence of legionellosis associated with a hotel. - Mod.MPP]