

LEGIONELLOSIS, CRUISE SHIP - GERMANY (SAXONY-ANHALT)

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Cruise passenger dies of Legionnaires'

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A passenger of a cruise ship which docked in Germany after a Greenland tour has died of Legionnaires' disease, the Saxony-Anhalt state health ministry said Tue, 26 Aug 2003.

The man had been treated for the disease at a hospital in Magdeburg after the Ocean Monarch, carrying 358 passengers, arrived in the northern port of Cuxhaven on Fri, 22 Aug 2003.

2 other passengers had contracted the disease and 6 people had shown symptoms, officials said. All the passengers, including 218 Germans, had left the ship on Fri, 22 Aug 2003. Health officials have appealed to any of the passengers suffering from flu-like symptoms to contact a doctor immediately.

Legionnaires' disease is caused by bacteria living in water droplets and can develop in showers, air-conditioning and water-heating systems.