

LEGIONELLOSIS - NETHERLANDS (AMSTERDAM): ALERT, REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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

ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases
<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Thu, 13 Jul 2006

From: Jim van Steenbergen <Jim.van.Steenbergen@rivm.nl>

The Municipal Health Service in Amsterdam, The Netherlands (GGD Amsterdam), has reported an outbreak of legionellosis. Since 6 Jul 2006 there are 23 confirmed cases identified; of whom one has died. The age of cases varies between 32 and 81 years. First day of symptoms ranges from 27 Jun to 9 Jul 2006, peaking on 1 Jul 2006. Most patients (19) are inhabitants of Amsterdam city center, 4 are from elsewhere in the country but are employed in Amsterdam city center. Several possible sources are identified, samples are taken and possible sources are put out of action (e.g. cooling towers, fountains).

We would like to be informed about legionellosis patients if they have visited Amsterdam in their incubation period, from 8 Jun to 11 Jul 2006. Information on possible cases can be sent to <lci@rivm.nl>.

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[ProMED thanks Drs. van den Koek and van Steenbergen for contributing this report. Dr. van Steenbergen also contributed the initial report to ProMED of the 1999 outbreak of legionellosis associated with a flower show.

ProMED would also like more information regarding other cases of this outbreak especially among people who have traveled to Amsterdam. A report in Dutch regarding this outbreak can be found at
:<http://rivm.nl/gezondheid/infectieziekten/update_legionellabesmetting_amsterdam.jsp>
- Mod.LL]

LEGIONELLOSIS - NETHERLANDS (AMSTERDAM)(02)

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

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Date: Fri, 14 Jul 2006

From: Jim van Steenbergen <Jim.van.Steenbergen@rivm.nl>

No new cases are reported since the previous posting. A cooling tower has been identified as the probable source. The cooling tower is located next to a former Post Office building (Oosterdokskade) in the east-central part of Amsterdam. Samples taken from the cooling tower have tested positive for *L. pneumophila* serotype 1. The cooling tower has been out of operation since 11 Jul 2006.

Sequence-based typing of water samples and patient samples is ongoing and are hoped to confirm the source of the outbreak. We still would like to be informed about patients with legionellosis if they have visited Amsterdam in their incubation period, from 8 Jun to 11 Jul 2006. Information on possible cases can be sent to <lci@rivm.nl>.

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[ProMED thanks Drs. van den Hoek and van Steenbergen for contributing more information regarding this outbreak. - Mod.LL]

LEGIONELLOSIS - NETHERLANDS (AMSTERDAM)(03)

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

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

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

Date: Wed 19 Jul 2006

From: Anneke van den Hoek <avdhoek@ggd.amsterdam.nl>

The Municipal Health Service in Amsterdam, The Netherlands (GGD Amsterdam) in collaboration with the Public Health Laboratory Haarlem (Streeklaboratorium) has identified beyond doubt that the cooling tower of the former Post Office building in the east-central part of Amsterdam has been the source of the recent epidemic in Amsterdam. Culture showed 5 000 000 colony-forming units/L. AFLP (Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism) patterns of patients are identical to those of the samples from the cooling tower. Samples from other possible sources showed negative or had different AFLP patterns.

Since previous postings, 4 new patients have been identified, bringing the total to 27 patients, of whom 6 were non-Amsterdam residents. The latter were all employed in the vicinity of the cooling tower, most of them at the building site adjacent to it. There are no reports of patients that were only incidentally visiting the area, nor tourists or other visitors from abroad.

The 1st day of illness of patients varies from 27 Jun to 9 Jul 2006, peaking on 1 Jul 2006. The age of cases varies between 32 and 81 years. One patient has died; another is on artificial ventilation, and still another is in intensive care. Other patients are recovering.

As the cooling tower has [only] been out of operation since 11 Jul 2006, we might still expect occasional new cases. Please inform us about legionellosis patients in your country if they have visited Amsterdam in their incubation period, from 8 Jun to 11 Jul 2006. Information on possible cases can be sent to <lcirivm.nl>.

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[Once again, ProMED thanks the contributors for this firsthand report, with confirmation of the source of the cluster. No cases in foreign travelers to Amsterdam have as yet turned up, but please heed their call for reports of any such. - Mod.LL/JW]

[See images:

A typical building cooling tower at:

<<http://www.nrel.gov/ncpv/images/01158.gif>>

Example of an AFLP pattern

<<http://webdoc.gwdg.de/ebook/y/1999/whichmarker/m05/fig1.jpg>>

- Mod.JW]