

Date: Wed, 24 Mar 2004 23:29:40 -0500 (EST)
From: ProMED-mail <promed@promed.isid.harvard.edu>
Subject: PRO> Legionellosis, hotel - USA (TX ex OK)(02): background
LEGIONELLOSIS, HOTEL - USA (OKLAHOMA EX TEXAS) (02): BACKGROUND

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, 24 Mar 2004 06:52:28 +0200

From: Steve Berger <Tel@post.tau.ac.il>

Source: GideonOnline [edited]

<<http://www.GideonOnline.com>>

A brief chronology of notable legionellosis outbreaks in the USA - from 1976 to 2004.

1976 - 221 cases (34 fatal) traced to a hotel air conditioning system during an American Legion convention in Philadelphia.

1985 - An outbreak (14 cases, 3 fatal) followed a church banquet in Michigan.

1989 - 34 cases, 2 fatal of Legionnaire's disease caused by a contaminated mist machine in a retail store in Louisiana.

1998 - 45 cases of Pontiac fever ascribed to a whirlpool at a Wisconsin hotel.

1999 - 22 cases of Pontiac fever, and 2 of Legionnaire's reported at a hotel in Georgia.

2000 - An outbreak of *Legionella longbeachae* infection acquired from potting soil in California, Oregon, and Washington.

2000 - 20 cases of Pontiac fever acquired from a hotel whirlpool in Wisconsin.

2000 - 15 cases of Legionnaire's diseases associated with occupational exposure to a plant lagoon in Minnesota.

2001 - 10 cases, (4 confirmed, 1 fatal) at an automobile plant in Cleveland, Ohio were traced to a contaminated cooling tower.

2002 - 16 cases of Legionnaire's diseases at a prison in Connecticut.

2002 - 117 cases of Pontiac fever due to *Legionella anisa* was reported among patrons at a restaurant in Tennessee.

2004 - 66 cases of Pontiac fever among visitors from Texas who stayed at a hotel in Oklahoma.

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[see also:

Legionellosis, hotel - USA (TX ex OK) 20040323.0813 Legionellosis - France (Pas de Calais) (02) 20040115.0166 Legionellosis - France (Pas-de-Calais) 20040105.0038 2003

Legionellosis - France (Pas-de-Calais) (05) 20031231.3179 Legionellosis - UK (West Midlands) (03) 20031126.2925 Legionellosis - UK (West Midlands) 20031109.2778 Legionellosis update 2003 (01) 20030904.2222 Legionellosis, cruise ship - Germany (Saxony-Anhalt) 20030828.2174 Legionellosis - Europe (France, Norway) (02) 20030818.2074 Legionellosis - Europe (France, Norway) 20030812.1990 Legionellosis - USA 20030717.1756 Legionellosis - USA (Delaware) 20030713.1721 Legionellosis - Spain (Valencia) 20030611.1439 Legionellosis, spa outbreak - Spain (Canary Islands) (02) 20030603.1352 Legionellosis, spa outbreak - Spain (Canary Islands) 20030530.1320 Legionellosis, hotel - UK (England) 20030311.0599 2002

Legionellosis update: 2002 (03) 20020828.5173
Legionellosis update: 2002 (02) 20020816.5074
Legionellosis - Spain (Barcelona, Valencia) 20020812.5029 Legionellosis - USA (Vermont) (02) 20020809.5007 Legionellosis - UK (England) (02) 20020809.5004
Legionellosis - Japan (Miyazaki) 20020809.5001 Legionellosis, potting soil - Australia (NSW) 20020808.4988 Legionellosis - UK (Cumbria) 20020805.4951 Legionellosis, pilgrims - Italy (Puglia) 20020705.4674 Legionellosis, nursing home - USA (Pennsylvania) 20020615.4507 Legionellosis - update 20020517.4237 Legionellosis - Australia (Melbourne): alert 20020417.3977 2001

Legionellosis - Spain (Murcia) (08) 20011017.2555
Legionellosis - Norway (02) 20010906.2123
Legionellosis - Spain (Pamplona) (02) 20010822.1979 Legionellosis - France (Paris) 20010717.1379 Legionellosis - UK (London): alert 20010630.1249 Legionellosis, automobile plant - USA (Ohio) 20010315.0531 Legionellosis, hospital - Australia (Melbourne) 20010108.0059 2000

Legionellosis - Australia (Melbourne) (09) 20000525.0833 Legionellosis - New Zealand, UK, ex Australia 20000503.0673]ll/pg/mpp

Date: Thu, 25 Mar 2004 12:02:53 -0500 (EST)
From: ProMED-mail <promed@promed.isid.harvard.edu>
Subject: PRO/EDR> Legionellosis, hotel - USA (ex OK)
LEGIONELLOSIS, HOTEL - USA (EX OKLAHOMA)

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Date: Wed, 24 Mar 2004

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

Source: South Bend Tribune Wed, 24 Mar 2004 [edited]

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/stories/2004/03/24/local.20040324-sbt-MARS-A1-Legionnaires_.sto>

Legionnaires' bacterium benches team

A trip to Oklahoma City for a national basketball tournament for home-schooled children turned into an uncomfortably close encounter with a dangerous bacterium for 13 local residents. The contingent of players and family members from Elkhart and LaGrange counties, Indiana stayed at a hotel that Oklahoma health officials believe harbored the bacterium that causes Legionnaires' disease. 7 members of the group became sick with symptoms of Pontiac fever, according to Kristy Bradley, interim epidemiologist for the Oklahoma State Health Department. Pontiac fever is caused by *Legionella pneumophila*, the same pathogen that causes Legionnaires' but is considerably less dangerous. Neither disease is spread from person-to-person.

The 13 local residents who stayed at the hotel, a Comfort Suites facility, included players, coaches, and family members who were participating in the National Christian Home-school Basketball & Family Conference. The event drew 6000 people and 240 teams from around the nation. The local group includes residents of Middlebury, Bristol, Howe, and Shipshewana, health officials said.

Bradley said the investigation is focusing on a room that houses the hotel's pool and hot tub, and where the contingent held daily devotional meetings. Members of a group from Houston, which was also participating in the tournament and conference and staying at the hotel, also became sick. Bradley also said about 65 people, all from the Indiana and Houston groups, have reported becoming sick with the milder Pontiac illness. Their symptoms have included rapid onset of fever, chills, fatigue, muscle aches, and headache.

The disease came to light on Sat, 20 Mar 2004, when members of the 2 teams became sick and had to forfeit some of their games, Bradley said. Since both teams happened to be staying at the Comfort Suites, that facility became the obvious suspected source of the illness.

Peg Ramey, director of community nursing for the Elkhart County Health Department, said an outbreak of disease caused by the *Legionella* bacterium does not require a health department investigation to identify people who may have come into contact with infected individuals. That's only done when the disease in question can be spread from person to person, not the case with this organism.

Bradley said 10 of the 13 affected local residents were interviewed by Oklahoma state health officials before they left for the return trip to Indiana. She said she's confident that the remaining 3 know about their possible exposure because they're related to some of the people who were interviewed.

[Byline: David Rumbach]

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[It is not stated whether teams from other states also stayed at the suspect hotel. - Mod.LL]

[We have changed the title of this thread to reflect the multistate nature of this outbreak, and allow for the possibility of additional states reporting cases associated with the event that drew participation from multiple states. - Mod.MPP]