

LEGIONELLOSIS - SPAIN (PAMPLONA)

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: Sat 3 Jun 2006

From: Pablo Nart <pablo.nart@terra.es>

Source: Typicallyspanish.com [edited]

<http://www.typicallyspanish.com/news/publish/article_4658.shtml>

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Pamplona has now affected 61 people, 31 of whom have had to be hospitalized. One woman is in intensive care, but the rest are all reported to be improving.

30 cooling towers in the area of the Ensanche de Pamplona were tested on Friday [2 Jun 2006], and the bacterium was found in 4 of them. A helicopter watch also revealed 8 cooling towers that the regional government inspectors had no idea even existed.

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[In the absence of human cases of legionellosis, *L. pneumophila* may be found associated with cooling towers. Additionally, finding both colonized water towers and human cases do not prove cause and effect without the typing of bacterial isolates.

Pamplona is located in the northeastern Aragon region of Spain. A map showing the location of Pamplona can be found at <<http://www.infoplease.com/images/mspain.gif>>.

Mod.LL]

LEGIONELLOSIS - SPAIN (PAMPLONA)(02)

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

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Date: Mon 5 Jun 2006

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

Source: EITB24 [edited]

<<http://www.eitb24.com/portal/eitb24/noticia/en/life/42-in-hospital-already-100-test-positive-for-legionnaires-disease?itemId=CD35060&cl=%2Feitb24%2Fsociedad&idioma=en>>

Already 109 people -- 49 in hospital -- have tested positive for pneumonia caused by a bacterium called *Legionella pneumophila*, detected on Fri 2 Jun 2006 in the old quarter of Pamplona/Iruna.

All those affected are making "satisfactory progress," as the Health Department of the Government of Navarre has confirmed. In a statement, the Health Department pointed out that, out of those 100 people affected, 44 are being treated at home. Likewise, it noted the 64-year-old woman admitted to the Intensive Care Unit is also making satisfactory progress. Thus, at the moment, there are 49 people in 3 different hospitals.

The Health Department added that 30 refrigeration plants were checked, out of which 4 contained Legionella, but the rest had no presence of the bacteria.

This is not the 1st time a Legionnaires' disease outbreak has been detected in Pamplona/Iruna. In 2001, 6 people died, and the outbreak affected other 16 people who worked at the City Council and the Education Department.

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[The Old Town (Casco Viejo) area of Pamplona (the city is also known as Iruna) can be found on the following map:<<http://www.sanfermin.com/mapa/pamplona.html>>.

The outbreak continues to grow. - Mod.LL]

LEGIONELLOSIS - SPAIN (PAMPLONA)(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: Thu, 8 Jun 2006

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

Source: Eurosurveillance [edited]

<<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2006/060608.asp#1>>

By 8 Jun 2006, 139 cases of legionellosis had been reported in an outbreak in Pamplona, northern Spain. All cases presented with clinical signs of pneumonia, compatible radiography and positive urinary antigen test.

The outbreak was recognized on 1 Jun 2006, when 4 confirmed cases were reported to the Public Health Institute of Navarra. The number of cases diagnosed up to 8 Jun 2006 are presented in the figure, by date of diagnosis [for the figure, see the original URL - Mod.LL]. Of the patients (55 percent), 76 were admitted to hospital, and the other 63 patients have been given treatment to take at home.

A total of 7 patients have required intensive care, and 6 patients remained in intensive care on 8 Jun 2006, 2 of whom are seriously ill. No deaths have occurred. Men represent 47 percent of cases. The patients range in age between 21 and 97 years.

Most of the initial cases occurred in a neighborhood close to the city center, and the investigations began on 1 Jun 2006 with the inspection of 30 cooling towers in 11 buildings in this part of the city. Rapid tests for Legionella antigen were positive in 4 of the towers, located in 3 buildings, on 2 Jun 2006, and these 4 towers were shut down immediately. Culture and PCR for Legionella have been positive in 2 of these cooling towers but could not be confirmed in the other 2.

The Public Health Institute in Navarra found Legionella with low bacterial load in 2 further cooling towers, which were shut down on 6 Jun 2006. A helicopter inspection of the area was carried out on 2 Jun 2006 and identified 8 structures that resembled undeclared cooling towers in the investigated area, but further investigation has found that none of these structures is a cooling tower.

Microbiological culture of respiratory samples from patients are in progress. Legionella isolates from the 4 positive cooling towers have been sent to the reference laboratory in the National Centre of Microbiology in Majadahonda, Madrid.

The local health authorities have been issuing regular press releases giving the details of the outbreak.

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