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Legionnaires' Scare

Nancy Harty Reporting
By Nancy Harty

Illinois' State Public Health Department has confirmed three cases of Legionnaires' disease linked to a northwest suburban hotel. Agency Spokeswoman Melaney Arnold says three guests of the Hampton Inn in McHenry contracted the disease last month. She says the hotel's pool and hot tub also tested positive for the disease - which can be fatal.

The disease is like pneumonia and is transmitted by breathing contaminated mist or vapor. Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, muscle aches or headaches.

Arnold says the three guests were hospitalized. At least one has gone home. They are from Michigan, Indiana and McHenry county and are not believed to have been traveling together.

The state has ordered the pool and hot tub closed until test results come back clean. A hotel manager says they've already had a professional come in to clean both facilities. Tina Valdivia says they are now working on the ventilation system.

The state is trying to contact hotel guests who stayed at the hotel between May 8th and June 6th.

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