

LEGIONELLOSIS - UK ex GREECE, TRAVELERS, ALERT

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: Fri 7 Oct 2011

Source: BBC News Health [edited]

<<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15220053>>

There have been 9 cases of Legionnaires' disease in the United Kingdom (UK), all linked to travel to Corfu [Greece] since August [2011], according to the Health Protection Agency [HPA]. However, the HPA cannot rule out a UK source of the infections and is still investigating. It is advising people to be aware of the symptoms of Legionnaires' disease if they are going to the Greek island.

The illness can lead to severe pneumonia and is sometimes fatal. Symptoms can take up to 2 weeks to develop after infection and generally start as a "flu-like" illness. It can be treated with antibiotics. The bacteria that cause the disease cannot be spread from person to person. They can live in water so cooling systems, showers and taps are common sources of infection.

Prof Nick Phin, from the Legionnaires' disease department at the HPA, said: "We are concerned that UK residents travelling to Corfu should be aware of this potential risk, however we are not suggesting that people change their holiday plans. We are continuing our investigations so we that can provide the best advice for travellers and minimise the risk of further cases. We will also assist the Greek Public Health authorities in their investigations into a possible source or sources within Corfu."

General practitioners (GPs) in the UK are also being told to keep an eye out for patients with the symptoms of Legionnaires' disease.

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[Denis Green <legion@q-net.net.au> submitted a similar article for posting.

For a discussion of travel-associated legionellosis see ProMED-mail post Legionellosis - USA (03): (NV) hotel 20110716.2159.

Corfu, a popular tourist destination, is a Greek island northwest of mainland Greece off the coast of Albania in the Ionian Sea (<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corfu>>). For a map of Corfu see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Corfu_topographic_map-en.svg>. A HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Greece can be seen at <http://healthmap.org/r/1gW_>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

Legionellosis - Italy (04): (VR) travelers, Eurosurveillance report 20111008.3020

Legionellosis - Italy (03): (VR) travelers, background 20110915.2821 Legionellosis - Italy (02): (VR)

travelers 20110915.2817 Legionellosis - Italy: (VR) travelers 20110914.2802 Legionellosis - USA (03):

(NV) hotel 20110716.2159 Legionellosis, hotel - UK (03): (Scotland) 20110408.1100 Legionellosis, hotel - UK (02): (Scotland) background 20110328.0974 Legionellosis, hotel - UK: (Scotland) 20110327.0965 Legionellosis - USA (02): (CA) conference, susp 20110304.0713 Legionellosis - USA: (CA) conference, susp 20110214.0494 Legionellosis, hotel - Mexico: (QR) alert 20110121.0253 Legionellosis - Australia (02): ex Indonesia (Bali) alert 20110119.0226

Legionellosis - Australia: (WA, VI) ex Indonesia (Bali) 20110115.0173
2010

Legionellosis - Australia: (WA) ex Indonesia (Bali) alert 20100826.3021
2009

Legionellosis, fatal, hotel - United Arab Emirates: (Dubai) 20090205.0509
2007

Legionellosis, hotel - Scandinavia ex Thailand (Phuket): alert 20070113.0178
2006

Legionellosis, tourists - Malaysia 20061027.3064 Legionellosis, craft fair - France (Lorraine) 20061012.2924 Legionellosis, spa pool - UK (England) 20060929.2787 Legionellosis - Italy (Venice): alert 20060912.2588
2005

Legionellosis, hotel - Sweden (Dalarna): susp. 20050204.0383
2004

Legionellosis, fatal 2003 - UK ex India 20040628.1724 Legionellosis - Italy (Basilicata) (02): background 20040408.0957 Legionellosis - Italy (Basilicata) 20040408.0950
2002

Legionellosis, pilgrims - Italy (Puglia) 20020705.4674
1999

Legionellosis - UK ex Thailand 19990422.0673 Legionellosis, imported - Thailand 19990320.0442]
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