

LEGIONELLOSIS, NEONATAL, NOSOCOMIAL, FATAL - CYPRUS (02)

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

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<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/news/main.php?id=44598&cat_id=1>

The police report into the death of 3 infants after they were infected with Legionnaires' disease at a private Nicosia hospital at the end of last year [2009] allegedly recommends criminal and disciplinary action against 3 people.

Nicosia CID investigators are thought to have concluded their report on Friday [13 Mar 2009]. The police file will be handed over to the Attorney-general tomorrow. It will be up to Petros Clerides whether or not criminal or disciplinary action will be taken against those implicated in the report.

According to Phileleftheros [the largest newspaper in Cyprus], the criminal aspect of the investigation was very difficult because it dealt with very delicate medical issues, compared to disciplinary offenses which are easier to prove. Letters and warnings sent to the hospital regarding inspections are also likely to be taken into account regarding the disciplinary aspect of the case.

Eleven infants born at the Hippocraton hospital between [17 and 27 Dec 2008] developed Legionnaires' disease. The newborns had all been discharged healthy but developed symptoms a few days later and were rushed to Makarios Hospital for treatment. Three of the children died while 8 others completed their treatment and were released.

Within days of the outbreak the private hospital closed down its inpatient wards, including its maternity and neonatal unit, and only continued to operate on an outpatient basis. A few weeks later it was given the green light to reopen its inpatient wards after samples taken from the hospital received the all clear for legionella from the state laboratory.

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[This outbreak of neonatal legionellosis was previously posted by ProMED-mail (see ProMED-mail Legionellosis, neonatal, nosocomial, fatal - Cyprus: susp. 20090102.0011). The current news report increases the number of deaths by 2 and the total number of cases by one. However, we are not informed about the source or mode of transmission for this outbreak.

Legionellosis in children is unusual. Most reported cases have involved neonates and children who are immunocompromised by, for example, malignancies, severe combined immunodeficiency, chronic granulomatous disease, organ transplantation, and prolonged treatment with corticosteroids, or who have preexisting respiratory disease (<<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/965492-overview>> and Greenberg D, Chiou CC, Famigilletti R, Lee TC, Yu VL. Problem pathogens: paediatric legionellosis--implications for improved diagnosis. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2006; 6:529-35).

Neonates with legionellosis may develop necrotizing pneumonia with signs of sepsis and multisystemic involvement that may progress rapidly to respiratory failure and death (Holmberg RE Jr, Pavia AT, Montgomery D, et al. Nosocomial Legionella pneumonia in the neonate. Pediatrics. 1993; 92:450-3). For further discussion of Legionellosis see ProMED-mail Legionellosis, neonatal, nosocomial, fatal - Cyprus: susp. 20090102.0011.

Maps of Cyprus are available at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe/cyprus.gif> and the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map at <http://healthmap.org/promed/en?v=35,33.2,7>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

Legionellosis, neonatal, nosocomial, fatal - Cyprus: susp. 20090102.0011 2008

Legionellosis - USA (03): (NJ) nosocomial, fatal 20081005.3149 2005

Legionellosis, hospital acquired - USA (NY) (03) 20050719.2082 Legionellosis, hospital acquired - USA (NY) (02) 20050718.2062 Legionellosis, hospital acquired - USA (NY) 20050715.2021 Legionellosis, nosocomial - Spain (Barcelona) 20050302.0646 2004

Legionellosis, hospital - Spain (Zaragoza) (02) 20040630.1743 Legionellosis, hospital - Spain (Zaragoza) 20040621.1651]ml/mpp