

LEGIONELLOSIS, HOTEL - UK: (SCOTLAND)

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

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A man is in hospital with the potentially fatal Legionnaires' disease after using the leisure centre at a 4-star hotel in Dundee. Some 66 staff and visitors at the Landmark Dundee have also experienced flu-like sickness, NHS [National Health Service] Tayside confirmed last night [25 Mar 2011].

The man who was confirmed positive for the disease is being treated in Ninewells Hospital.

The health authority and Dundee City Council environmental health officers said last night [25 Mar 2011] they had carried out investigations at the hotel after staff and guests reported feeling unwell. NHS Tayside said that before the single confirmed case, there was no evidence of Legionella infection in any samples taken.

Consultant in public health medicine for the health authority Dr Christopher McGuigan said: "To date, 66 people who work in or have visited Landmark Dundee are known to have experienced flu-like illness, which has, for the majority, been short-lived and managed symptomatically at home. We are not recommending that people should stay away from the hotel as the investigations are focusing on the leisure club, which has been closed since the evening of Thursday, 17 Mar 2011. We have been working closely with the hotel since the investigation started late last week, and we are systematically carrying out all appropriate health and environmental tests."

NHS Tayside has asked anyone who has visited the hotel over the last 2 weeks, and who has been unwell with a flu-like illness -- for example, high temperature, chills, cough, headache or shortness of breath -- to seek advice.

Legionnaires' disease, a potentially fatal form of pneumonia, is caused by types of bacteria commonly found in the environment. People can become infected when they breathe in air that contains Legionella bacteria which have been dispersed into the air in very fine droplets of water.

Most people exposed to these common bacteria do not become ill, and the disease cannot be spread from person to person. Contaminated water is usually the source of infection.

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[For a discussion of Legionnaires' disease (LD) and Pontiac fever (PF), please see the prior ProMED-mail post Legionellosis - USA (02): (CA) conference, susp 20110304.0713.

Outbreaks of legionellosis are usually either LD or PF; combined outbreaks of both LD and PF are unusual [1-4]. Why some people apparently exposed to the same source develop Legionnaires' disease and others develop Pontiac fever has not been explained.

1. Thomas DL, Mundy LM, Tucker PC. Hot tub legionellosis: Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac fever after a point-source exposure to *Legionella pneumophila*. *Arch Intern Med* 1993;153:2597-9.
2. Goldberg DJ, Fallon RJ, Green ST, Wrench JG. Pontiac fever in children. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 1992; 11:240-1.
3. Girod JC, Reichman RC, Winn WC, Klaucke DN, Vogt RL, Dolin R. Pneumonic and nonpneumonic forms of legionellosis. The result of a common-source exposure to *Legionella pneumophila*. *Arch Intern Med*. 1982;142(3):545-7.
4. Benin AL, Benson RF, Arnold KE, Fiore AE, Cook PG, Williams LK, Fields B, Besser RE. An outbreak of travel-associated Legionnaires disease and Pontiac fever: the need for enhanced surveillance of travel-associated legionellosis in the United States. *J Infect Dis*. 2002; 185(2):237-43.

A excellent review of the topic can be found at: Edelstein PH. Urine Antigen Tests Positive for Pontiac Fever: Implications for Diagnosis and Pathogenesis. *Clin Infect Dis* 2007; 44 (2):229-231. Available at: <<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/44/2/229.full>>.

The Landmark Hotel, located on the outskirts of Dundee, Scotland, has 3 bedrooms situated in the old mansion house with the remaining 100 bedrooms located in an extension. The hotel has a "leisure club" with an indoor heated pool, spa, sauna, solarium, and a 10-station gymnasium (<<http://www.gbstay.com/hotel/AAB104398.htm>>).

Dundee, a city in the Tayside region of Scotland, lies within the eastern central Lowlands on the north bank of the Firth of Tay (<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dundee>>). Ninewells Hospital, a teaching hospital on the western edge of Dundee, is administered by NHS Tayside (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninewells_Hospital>).

The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Scotland is available at <<http://healthmap.org/r/0mhJ>>. - Mod.ML]