

LEGIONELLOSIS, FATAL - UK: (SCOTLAND)

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

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[1]

Date: Thu 05 May 2011

Source: STV.tv [edited]

<<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/west-central/247277-health-authorities-investigate-sudden-rise-in-cases-of-legionella/>>

Health officials have issued a warning for the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area and begun an "urgent investigation" after uncovering a 5th case of Legionella pneumonia.

Just hours after a 30-year-old woman arrived at a city hospital showing symptoms of the potentially fatal infectious disease, health chiefs have announced an investigation into the unusual rise in cases.

Dr Syed Ahmed, NHS (National Health Service) Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Lead Consultant in Public Health, said: "There are always a small number of cases of Legionella pneumonia in the community every year, however this rise in the number of cases so close together is unusual. As a result we have begun an urgent investigation with Health Protection Scotland and Environmental Health colleagues today to examine if there is any potential common source or whether these cases are coincidental, albeit unusual. At this early stage in these investigations we have established no link between the cases.

"It is important to remember that Legionella cannot be spread from person to person. It is an uncommon bacterial infection. Legionella bacteria are found in water and can be spread through aerosols produced from water, such as air conditioning and showers and it cannot be contracted by drinking contaminated water. The symptoms and signs of Legionnaires' disease include headache, fever, dry cough, breathing difficulties, stomach pains and diarrhoea. I would like to advise anyone currently with these symptoms to contact NHS or their own GP."

The woman, who has not been named, is currently in a critical condition and is being treated in an Intensive Therapy Unit. The 3 other people who have been affected are said to be stable and are all responding well to treatment.

Communicated by: ProMED-mail <[promed@promedmail.org](mailto:promed@promedmail.org)>

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[2]

Date: Wed 11 May 2011

Source: icDumfries.co.uk [edited]

<[http://icdumfries.icnetwork.co.uk/othernews/news/tm\\_headline=legionnaires-outbreak-two-more-die%26method=full%26objectid=28677593%26siteid=77296-name\\_page.html](http://icdumfries.icnetwork.co.uk/othernews/news/tm_headline=legionnaires-outbreak-two-more-die%26method=full%26objectid=28677593%26siteid=77296-name_page.html)>

To date, 2 more people have died during an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, bringing the death toll to 3.

NHS [National Health Service] Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) launched an urgent investigation last week after a "most unusual rise"

in the number of cases, and said it was now being treated as an outbreak. And NHSGGC confirmed a further 2 cases of Legionnaires' disease, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 7.

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[According to the news releases above, there are now 7 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease, including 3 deaths, in Greater Glasgow, Scotland so far this year. The incidence of community-acquired Legionnaires' disease varies widely with the setting and availability of methods for diagnosing the infection.

However, in 2003, 34 countries with a population of 467.76 million in the European Working Group for Legionella Infections reported a total of 4578 cases, meaning an average rate across Europe of 9.8 per million population (<<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs285/en/>>). Greater Glasgow, which consists of all localities that are physically attached to the city of Glasgow, had a population of 1 199 629 at the 2001 census (<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater\\_Glasgow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Glasgow)>). The incidence rate of Legionnaires' disease for Greater Glasgow for the 1st 5 months of this year is thus about 6 per million population. The news releases above do not give the incidence rate for Legionnaires' disease for Glasgow in prior years, although a recent "most unusual rise" in the number of cases was noted; nevertheless one of the news releases states that there is so far no known link between the cases.

No mention is made if there is a species of Legionella common among the cases or if so, there is a common genotype among the isolates of the organism. The predominance of one genotype in patient specimens would suggest transmission from a common source. Frequently, however, this is difficult in legionellosis outbreaks because the diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease is made only on the basis of urinary L. pneumophila serogroup 1 antigen testing or serology rather than isolation of the organism from cultures of respiratory tract specimens, in which case genotyping of clinical isolates is, of course, not possible.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is a National Health Service board in West Central Scotland, created from the amalgamation of NHS Greater Glasgow and part of NHS Argyll and Clyde. It is the largest health board in the United Kingdom (<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHS\\_Greater\\_Glasgow\\_and\\_Clyde](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NHS_Greater_Glasgow_and_Clyde)>). Maps

of Scotland can be found at [http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=map+of+scotland&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&oi=geocode\\_result&resnum=1&ct=image](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=map+of+scotland&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=image).

A more detailed map of the Glasgow area of Scotland can be found at [http://www.gosur.com/en/scotland/glasgow/glasgow\\_map/](http://www.gosur.com/en/scotland/glasgow/glasgow_map/). The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of Scotland is available at <http://healthmap.org/r/0Fyw>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

Legionellosis, hotel - UK (03): (Scotland) 20110408.1100 Legionellosis, hotel - UK (02): (Scotland) background 20110328.0974 Legionellosis, hotel - UK: (Scotland) 20110327.0965

2010

Legionellosis, fatal - UK (03): (Wales) 20101014.3725 Legionellosis, fatal - UK (02): (Wales) 20100916.3352 Legionellosis, fatal - UK: (Wales) 20100914.3321

2007

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

2006

Legionellosis, spa pool - UK (England) 20060929.2787

2005

Legionellosis - UK (England) 20050906.2639

2004

Legionellosis, fatal 2003 - UK ex India: background 20040630.1736 Legionellosis, fatal 2003 - UK ex India 20040628.1724

2003

Legionellosis - UK (West Midlands) (03) 20031126.2925 Legionellosis - UK (West Midlands) (02) 20031117.2856 Legionellosis - UK (West Midlands) 20031109.2778 Legionellosis, hotel - UK (England) (02) 20030316.0663 Legionellosis, hotel - UK (England) 20030311.0599

2002

Legionellosis - UK (England) (03) 20021105.5718 Legionellosis - UK (England) (02) 20020809.5004 Legionellosis - UK (Cumbria) 20020805.4951

2001

Legionellosis - UK (London): alert 20010630.1249] .....ml/ejp/mpp