

## LEGIONELLOSIS - ITALY: (VERONA) TRAVELERS

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

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<<http://novatravelclinic.com/italy-legionellosis/>>

According to the European CDC, 11 confirmed cases of legionellosis have been reported in travelers returning from the northern town of Lazise, Verona Province (Veneto Region) since July 2011. Though the exact source of infection has not yet been identified, 3 of the 4 accommodations were geographically clustered together, south of the town center. Legionellosis should be considered in the differential diagnosis of any traveler with fever and pneumonia within 2 weeks of returning from Lazise.

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[The following has been extracted from the U.S. CDC document Travel-Associated Legionnaires' disease (<<http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/faq.htm>>):

"About 20-25 percent of all Legionnaires' disease reported to CDC is travel-associated. Legionnaires' disease is important to diagnose and to report because its identification implies the presence of an environmental source to which other susceptible individuals are likely to be exposed. Clusters of Legionnaires' disease associated with travel to hotels or aboard cruise ships are rarely detected by individual clinicians or health departments; travelers typically disperse from the source of infection before developing symptoms. Therefore, a travel history should be actively sought from patients with community-acquired pneumonia and Legionella testing should be performed for those who have traveled in the 2 weeks before onset of symptoms. ....

"Environmental sampling/testing should only be conducted after careful consideration of the epidemiologic evidence linking a case(s) to a particular location."

The following article is linked to the CDC document: Barbaree JM, et al: Protocol for Sampling Environmental Sites for Legionellae. Applied Environmental Microbiol 1987; 53:1454-8 (<[http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/files/sampling\\_protocol1987.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/files/sampling_protocol1987.pdf)>):

"Since legionellae not related to disease may be found in many of the sites sampled, an epidemiologic association with the probable source should be established before intervention methods, such as disinfection, are undertaken."

"Random sampling without an epidemiologic evaluation and comparing isolates from the environment and from patients could lead to false conclusions about sources of epidemic strains."

Potential environmental sampling sites for Legionella spp that the CDC document suggests include: internal surfaces of faucets, aerators, and shower heads; and water from incoming water main, holding tanks and cisterns, water heater tanks, decorative fountains, irrigation equipment, fire sprinkler system (if recently used), whirlpools, and spas. Because Legionella may be found in water supplies without

linkage to any cases, the actual causative source should be demonstrated by matching the genotype of the environmental isolates with that of any clinical isolates to assure frequently costly corrective measures are carried out on the actual source

(<<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC86783/>>; and  
<<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2730281/>>).

Veneto is one of the 20 regions of Italy, with a population is about 5 million. It is located along the Adriatic coast in the northeastern part of Italy and its capital is Venice. Lazise is a town along the eastern shores of Lake Garda in the Province of Verona in the Veneto region, with a population of 6213 in 2004. It is located about 120 km (75 mi) west of Venice and about 20 km (12 mi) northwest of Verona (<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazise>>). A map of Italy on which the Veneto region can be located is at <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Veneto\\_in\\_Italy.svg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Veneto_in_Italy.svg)>; a map on which the Province of Verona can be located is at <[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Map\\_Province\\_of\\_Verona.svg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Map_Province_of_Verona.svg)>, and a map on which the town of Lazise can be located in the province of Verona is at <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map\\_of\\_comune\\_of\\_Lazise\\_\(province\\_of\\_Verona,\\_region\\_Veneto,\\_Italy\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_comune_of_Lazise_(province_of_Verona,_region_Veneto,_Italy).svg)>.

A HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map showing the location of Veneto can be accessed at <<http://healthmap.org/r/00V7>>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

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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