

LEGIONELLOSIS - NEW ZEALAND (03): (MARLBOROUGH)

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

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Source: Radio New Zealand News [edited]

<<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/regional/76539/cooling-tower-suspected-in-legionnaires%27-outbreak>>

Steam from a cooling tower is suspected to be behind an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the Marlborough region. Nelson Marlborough Public Health Service has tested 19 cooling towers and found one contained the same strain of bacteria that infected 3 people last month [April 2011]. That is 2 more cases than are normally reported in the region for the entire year.

Regional medical officer of health Ed Kiddle says the 3 men worked in the same area as the infected tower; 6 more people who have symptoms of legionellosis are being tested for the disease. Dr Kiddle says all the towers have been shock-dosed with chemicals to remove the bacteria and the threat seems to be over.

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[For a discussion of legionellosis, see the prior ProMED-mail post that concerned this outbreak of legionellosis in the town of Blenheim, New Zealand (Legionellosis - New Zealand (02): (MA) 20110525.1586).

The news release in this prior ProMED-mail post stated there were 3 confirmed cases of legionellosis from this industrial estate area plus 8 suspected cases of legionellosis that were awaiting serologic confirmation of the diagnosis (not 6 suspected cases as stated in the above news release).

The above news release says that one of the 19 cooling towers in the area where the 3 men worked contained the same "strain" of bacteria that infected the 3 people last month [April 2011] but fails to specify whether this determination was based on speciation or actual genotyping of patient isolates and the environmental isolate. Because *Legionella* may be found in environmental samples without linkage to any cases of legionellosis, the actual causative infectious reservoir should be demonstrated by means of genotyping methods, if possible (see <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC86783/>> and <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2730281/>>). If the genotype of clinical and environmental isolates match, this would confirm the cooling tower as the source of the outbreak.

Marlborough is one of the regions of New Zealand, located on the northeast coast of the South Island. Blenheim, the most populous town in the Marlborough region, is the seat of the regional council and has a population of 30 200 (June 2010 estimate) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marlborough_Region>). The area that surrounds the town is well known as a center of New Zealand's wine industry. For a map of the Riverlands Industrial Estate on the outskirts of Blenheim and its relation to Blenheim, see <http://www.colliers.co.nz/Commercial_Property_12863/21_23_Vernon_Street_Marlborough/>.

The HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map of New Zealand can be accessed at <http://healthmap.org/r/OS*b>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

Legionellosis - New Zealand (02): (MA) 20110525.1586 Legionellosis - New Zealand: (CA) potting soil, alert 20110116.0189

2010

Legionellosis, fatal - UK (03): (Wales) 20101014.3725

2006

Legionellosis, tourists - Malaysia 20061027.3064

2005

Legionellosis, potting soil - New Zealand (South Island) 20051027.3126

Legionellosis - Australia (NSW) 20050216.0526 Legionellosis, fatal, potting soil - Australia (VIC): 2004 20050123.0250

2004

Legionellosis, potting soil - New Zealand 2003 (02): background 20040104.0033

Legionellosis, potting soil - New Zealand 2003 20040102.0014

2003

Legionellosis, potting soil - Australia (S.) (02): bkgrnd 20031230.3167

Legionellosis, potting soil - Australia (South) 20031229.3160

2002

Legionellosis, potting soil - Australia (NSW) 20020808.4988

2000

Legionellosis - Australia: background 20001226.2282 Legionellosis, potting soil - USA: May-Jun 2000
20000904.1503]ml/msp/jw