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## Legionnaires break-in

By GINGER ADAMS OTIS

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A flare up of Legionnaires disease on Rikers Island has sickened three inmates and put correction officers at the facility on high alert, The Post has learned.

The city's Department of Correction stopped admitting inmates to the Otis Bantam Correctional Center on Rikers on Friday afternoon after several inmates fell ill, sources said.

Chief of Department Larry Davis sent an alert to unions representing Riker workers that afternoon confirming one inmate case of Legionnaires. The bacteria may be spreading through the facility's showerheads and water system, sources said.

Michael Skelly, spokesman for the union that represents Rikers guards, slammed Correction Commissioner Dora Schriro's failure to issue a health alert.

Department officials confirmed that Legionnaires had been found at Otis Bantam, and said it had taken steps to minimize infection by transferring high-risk inmates out of the affected unit, modifying showerheads and raising the temperature of the water system to reduce the bacteria's spread, as well as doing a one-time hyper-chlorination. "Although the risk of exposure among DOC staff is minimal, DOC will be conducting screening of staff at OBCC for any signs or symptoms of illness and is providing educational material to all staff," a city spokesperson said.

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