

LEGIONELLOSIS - USA (04): (MARYLAND) FATAL, HOTEL

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Laboratories Administration testing confirmed the presence of Legionella bacteria in water collected at the Plim Plaza Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland.

Legionella pneumophila, the bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease, was detected in water collected from various locations at the hotel.

An ongoing investigation by the Worcester County Health Department and DHMH has identified 3 additional cases of Legionnaires' disease in people who had stayed at the hotel. This is in addition to the 3 cases announced by the health department last week, for a total of 6 confirmed cases. One person, an elderly out-of-state resident, died.

The Worcester County Health Department and DHMH continue to work with the Plim Plaza Hotel management to investigate this situation.

Legionnaires' disease, also called legionellosis, is a form of pneumonia caused by inhaling mist or vapor from water containing the Legionella bacteria. People may develop the disease approximately 2 to 14 days following exposure to the bacteria.

Although the hotel is currently closed for the season, anyone who was a guest at the Plim Plaza hotel in the month of September [2011] and is experiencing pneumonia-like symptoms should contact his or her health care provider to determine whether testing or treatment is recommended. The disease can be treated with commonly available antibiotics. Legionellosis is not spread from person to person.

There have been 93 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease reported this year in Maryland. On average 100-130 cases are reported statewide annually.

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[Legionellosis is an infectious disease caused by a Gram-negative bacillus of the genus Legionella, most commonly Legionella pneumophila. Legionnaires' disease is the acute pneumonic form of the disease; about 70 per cent of cases are due to L. pneumophila serogroup 1. Pontiac fever is a non-pneumonic form of legionellosis that is less severe than Legionnaires' disease.

Legionnaires' disease, and possibly Pontiac fever, is usually acquired by inhalation by a susceptible person of an infectious dose of aerosolized Legionella. Usually, a building's contaminated water system is incriminated as the source. Legionella are found primarily in the hot water portion of plumbing systems and in cooling towers.

Genotyping of patient and environmental isolates has become a helpful tool to establish transmission pathways. The predominance of one genotype in patient specimens suggests transmission from a common source. Because L. pneumophila may be found in water supplies without linkage to any cases of

legionellosis, the actual causative infectious reservoir should be demonstrated by means of genotyping methods (see <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC86783/>> and <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2730281/>>).

Ocean City is a resort town in Worcester County, Maryland, United States (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocean_City,_Maryland>). The Plim Plaza Hotel with 181 rooms is on the Ocean City boardwalk (<<http://www.ocmdhotels.com/plimplaza>>). A map of the state of Maryland on which Ocean City is indicated can be accessed at <<http://maps.google.com/maps?client=safari&rls=en&q=map+ocean+city+maryland>>.

The state of Maryland can be located on the HealthMap/ProMED-mail interactive map at <<http://healthmap.org/r/ORJ1>>. - Mod.ML]

[see also:

Legionellosis - UK ex Greece, travelers, alert 20111008.3021 Legionellosis - Italy (04): (VR) travelers, Eurosurveillance report 20111008.3020

Legionellosis - Italy (03): (VR) travelers, background 20110915.2821 Legionellosis - Italy (02): (VR) travelers 20110915.2817 Legionellosis - Italy: (VR) travelers 20110914.2802 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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