

LEGIONELLA

STAFF HUDDLE



WHAT IS LEGIONELLA?

- Legionella can make people sick when the germs grow in water and spread in droplets small enough for people to breathe in.



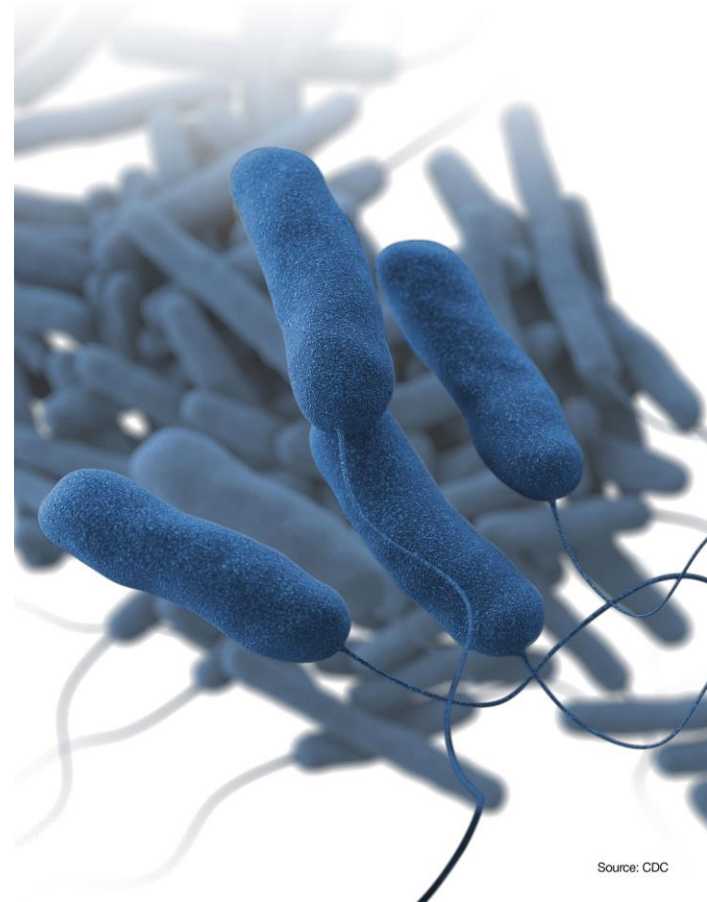
HOW LEGIONELLA SPREADS

- *Legionella* is transmitted by breathing in of tiny water droplets containing the bacteria.



WHERE DOES LEGIONELLA LIKE TO GROW?

- Showers and faucets.
- Cooling towers, which are parts of large, centralized air conditioning systems.
- Hot tubs.
- Decorative fountains and water features.
- Medical devices (such as CPAP machines, hydrotherapy equipment, bronchoscopes,)
- Ice machines
- Humidifiers
- Hot water tanks and heaters
- Large, complex plumbing systems



Source: CDC

PREVENTION FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- Keeping hot water temperatures high enough.
- Making sure disinfectant levels are monitored per policy.
- Keeping water flowing (preventing stagnation).



PREVENTION FOR FACILITIES

- The key to preventing Legionnaires' disease is maintenance of the water systems in which Legionella may grow.
- If Legionella is found in a healthcare facility's water system, the facility should work to eliminate the bacteria.
- Water management programs should be developed by facilities and properly managed.



Healthcare workers can help prevent legionella by identifying the hazards in the workplace.

Questions?

Contact us: dohpfl@nd.gov



RESOURCES



Project Firstline on CDC.gov:
<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/projectfirstline/index.html>



CDC's Project Firstline on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/CDCProjectFirstline>



CDC's Project Firstline on Twitter:
https://twitter.com/CDC_Firstline



Project Firstline *Inside Infection Control* on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGViKDdRtlc13VX>



To sign up for Project Firstline e-mails, click here: https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USCDC_2104

References:

1. [Legionnaires Disease, Pontiac Fever Fast Facts | CDC](#)
2. [2016-06-vitalsigns.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#)
3. [What Clinicians Need to Know about Legionnaires' Disease. \(cdc.gov\)](#)
4. [Water Management in Healthcare Facilities for Legionella | CDC](#)
5. [Legionella Toolkit-Version 1.1-June 24, 2021 \(cdc.gov\)](#)
6. [Print Materials and Job Aids from Project Firstline | Infection Control | CDC](#)
7. [Toolkit for Controlling Legionella in Common Sources of Exposure \(Legionella Control Toolkit\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
8. [Preventing Occupational Exposure to Legionella \(cdc.gov\)](#)
9. [Germs live in water and on wet surfaces \(cdc.gov\)](#)
10. [Legionnaires' Disease Prevention Providing a Home for Guests, not Legionella \(cdc.gov\)](#)