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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
***DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES***  
***BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL***

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September 6, 2018

Dear Guest of the Sands Resort,

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is investigating an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, a serious type of bacterial pneumonia, in Hampton, NH. A number of individuals have become ill after staying at the Sands Resort on 32 Ashworth Avenue, Hampton, NH this summer. People can get Legionnaires' disease by breathing in small water droplets containing *Legionella* bacteria. Your individual risk of coming down with Legionnaires' disease may increase if you are 50 years or older, smoke cigarettes, or have certain medical conditions, such as a weakened immune system.

In response to this situation, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the Town of Hampton, NH, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting an investigation. Preliminary laboratory testing at the Sands Resort has identified *Legionella* bacteria in the hot tub and other locations in the Sands Resort water system. NH DHHS issued a public health order on the Sands Resort on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, requiring the establishment to notify guests of the potential risk of Legionnaires' disease if they stay at the resort. As required by NH DHHS, the Sands Resort has hired a company to get rid of the bacteria that may be present in the hotel.

If you develop symptoms of pneumonia within two weeks of staying at the Sands Resort, please seek medical attention right away. Please also show this letter to your doctor so that he/she knows to test you for Legionnaires' disease. Pneumonia symptoms typically include cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headache. Ask your doctor to test you with both a urine test and a respiratory culture. If you test positive, ask your doctor to report your illness to your local or state health department as soon as possible. Your doctor should prescribe you an antibiotic for treatment if you develop symptoms and are diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease. You may also need care in the hospital. If your visit was longer than 14 days ago, you are beyond the usual time it takes to develop disease.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services will continue working with the Sands Resort to protect the health of guests and employees. A fact sheet about Legionnaires' disease is included with this letter. You can learn more on our website (<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/legionella.htm>). Please share this information with others who stayed in your room. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services public inquiry line at 603-271-9461.

Sincerely,

The Bureau of Infectious Disease Control