



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

Lisa M. Morris
Director

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

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-4496 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4496
Fax: 603-271-0545 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964
www.dhhs.nh.gov

September 2, 2018

Dear Guest of the Sands Resort,

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are investigating an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, a serious type of bacterial pneumonia caused by *Legionella* bacteria. This summer in Hampton New Hampshire (NH), DHHS has confirmed 14 people with Legionnaire's disease. Many, but not all, of these people stayed at the Sands Resort on 32 Ashworth Avenue, Hampton, NH. Water samples were tested to find out where the *Legionella* bacteria are coming from. These tests show that *Legionella* has been, and may still be present, in this hotel's water system. The investigation is still in progress and we are collaborating with many partners to clean the water system.

We want to make you aware of this situation so you can make a decision as to whether to stay at the Sands Resort or visit Hampton. People get Legionnaires' disease by breathing in small water droplets containing *Legionella* bacteria. You do not get Legionnaire's disease from other people, from eating food, or from swimming or bathing in water. Your risk of getting severe Legionnaires' disease is increased if you are 50 years of age or older, smoke cigarettes, and/or have certain medical conditions, such as a weakened immune system.

If you choose to stay at the Sands Resort, the following measures may help prevent infection:

- Take a bath instead of a shower. Showering is associated with an increased risk of Legionnaires' disease. A bath is safer because less water is aerosolized than during shower.
- Use bottled water for oral hygiene practices or drinking water in order to reduce any risk of inhaling or aspirating water containing the bacteria.

If you develop symptoms of pneumonia (such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath) within two weeks of staying at the Sands Resort, please seek medical attention right away. Show this letter to your healthcare provider so that he/she knows to test you for Legionnaires' disease. If your healthcare provider decides to test you, request that he/she use both a urine antigen test and a respiratory culture. If you are diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease, your healthcare provider will prescribe an antibiotic, may suggest you get care in the hospital, and should immediately report your diagnosis to your local or state health department.

The NH DHHS and CDC 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 much more about our investigation 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