

Call for Cases: Legionnaires' Disease Associated With Travel to Hampton, New Hampshire -- 2018

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is investigating four cases of Legionnaires' disease in Hampton, New Hampshire. Health departments are asked to report cases with travel to this area within 14 days of illness onset.

Description:

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) is investigating four cases of Legionnaires' disease who likely acquired *Legionella* at the end of July or early August in the area of Ashworth Avenue between Island Path and H Street in Hampton, New Hampshire. Additional potential cases are under investigation.

The four confirmed cases report overnight stays at three different locations on Ashworth Avenue in Hampton, New Hampshire. Illness onset dates range from July 25 – August 7, 2018. All patients' illnesses were confirmed by *Legionella* urinary antigen testing. Three cases were hospitalized and no deaths have been reported. NH DHHS is currently working to identify the source of these infections.

Whenever possible, diagnostic testing of travelers with community-acquired pneumonia should include collection of urine for antigen testing and lower respiratory specimens for culture of *Legionella*. Clinical *Legionella* isolates are valuable for comparison with environmental isolates while conducting investigations.

The NH DHHS is requesting that state and local health departments examine reports of suspected or confirmed cases of legionellosis to determine whether any could be associated with travel to Hampton, New Hampshire since June 1st, 2018.

Public health officials who identify suspected or confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac fever among persons with a similar travel history and illness onsets within 14 days of travel are asked to contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496.

Update: Legionnaires' Disease Associated With Travel to Hampton, New Hampshire -- 2018

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services continues to investigate cases of Legionnaires' disease in people who visited Hampton, New Hampshire this summer. Health departments are asked to report cases with travel to Hampton, New Hampshire within 14 days of illness onset.

Description:

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) continues to investigate cases of Legionnaires' disease who likely acquired *Legionella* in June to August 2018 in Hampton, New Hampshire. Currently, there are 14 cases associated with this outbreak and additional potential cases are under investigation. Illness onset dates range from June 14 – August 24, 2018. All patients' illnesses were confirmed by *Legionella* urinary antigen testing. Twelve cases were hospitalized and one died. NH DHHS and partners continue to work to identify the source of these infections.

The 14 confirmed cases report overnight stays at several different locations in a small area of Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. However, more than half report staying at the Sands Resort, 32 Ashworth Avenue, Hampton, NH. NH DHHS is sending notification letters to guests who are known to have stayed at this property since August 3, 2018 based on hotel records. Guests reside in 17 states (AZ, CA, CT, FL, IL, MA, ME, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, UT, VA, VT) and Canada. Investigation of any suspected illness identified through this notification will be communicated and coordinated with the respective state or provincial health department.

Testing patients for *Legionella* should be considered in individuals who present with a community-acquired pneumonia with onset of illness within 14 days of travel away from home; testing for *Legionella* should include collection of urine for antigen testing and collection of lower respiratory specimens for *Legionella* culture. Clinical *Legionella* isolates are valuable for comparison with environmental isolates while conducting investigations.

The NH DHHS is requesting that state and local health departments examine reports of suspected or confirmed cases of legionellosis to determine whether any could be associated with travel to Hampton, New Hampshire since June 1st, 2018.

Public health officials who identify suspected or confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac fever among persons with a similar travel history and illness onsets within 14 days of travel are asked to contact the New Hampshire Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 or email at nhbidc@dhhs.nh.gov.