



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MSDH Medical Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20180924-00141-ADV (Medical Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers - Statewide
DATE: Monday, September 24, 2018
SUBJECT: Legionnaires' Disease Investigation, Gulfport, Mississippi, 2018

Key Messages:

- The Mississippi State Department of Health is investigating a cluster of Legionnaires' disease associated with stay at a condominium complex in Gulfport, Mississippi.
- Please consider Legionnaires' disease among individuals with pneumonia, especially with residence in or recent travel to a condominium complex in Gulfport.
- *Legionella* Urine antigen and respiratory cultures are preferred for diagnosis (serology is not recommended).
- Report all cases of *Legionella* to the Mississippi State Department of Health within one business day of first knowledge (report by telephone to 601-576-225 during regular business hours; after hours reporting is not required).

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is investigating two cases of Legionnaires' disease among individuals with exposure to a condominium complex in Gulfport, Mississippi. Legionnaires' disease results from exposure to small droplets of water containing *Legionella* bacteria that are aerosolized from water sources conducive to *Legionella* growth (e.g., cooling towers, hot tubs, showers and fountains). *Legionella pneumophila*, the bacterial etiology of Legionnaires' disease, can result in pneumonia 2-14 days after exposure.

Legionnaires' disease typically presents as a community acquired pneumonia with symptoms of high fever, chills, and a cough. There is no definitive radiographic pattern for Legionnaires' disease, but pleural effusions are common and most patients have radiographic abnormalities by the third day of symptoms. A milder infection caused by the same type of *Legionella* bacteria is called Pontiac Fever. The symptoms of Pontiac Fever usually last for 2 to 5 days and may also include fever, headaches, and muscle aches; however, there is no pneumonia.

Urinary antigen assay testing along with culture of respiratory secretions on selective media is the preferred diagnostic testing methodology for Legionnaires' disease. Serological testing for *Legionella* is not recommended.



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The Mississippi State Department of Health is asking clinicians to:

- Be aware of possible Legionnaires' disease among patients with stay at a condominium complex in Gulfport, Mississippi who present with a febrile illness or pneumonia,
- Use recommended testing methods (urinary antigen testing and respiratory culture on *Legionella* selective media) for suspected cases,
- Report cases of Legionnaires' disease or Pontiac Fever immediately to the Mississippi State Department of Health at 601-576-7725 within one business day of first knowledge or suspicion (after hours reporting not required).

Sincerely,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
Mississippi State Department of Health



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MSDH Medical Advisory
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20180924-00141-ADV
Program (HAN) Type: Medical Advisory
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00141
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).