



A Tradition of Stewardship  
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#### Health and Human Services Agency

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**NAPA COUNTY**

Health & Human  
Services Agency

## HEALTH ADVISORY

July 21, 2022

### Possible Legionella Outbreak - 2022

**TO:** Healthcare Providers  
**FROM:** Karen Relucio, MD, Public Health Officer  
Communicable Disease Control Program

#### **Summary:**

As of Thursday, July 21, there have been six confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease in Napa County. All cases were hospitalized and symptom onset dates ranged from 7/3 to 7/11. A possible common origin is being investigated at this time. Legionella cannot be transmitted person to person.

Healthcare providers should be alert for patients who have respiratory illness consistent with legionella (<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/fs-legionella-clinicians.pdf>), such as cough, fever, and radiographic evidence of pneumonia.

Legionellosis is not a common infection. Since 2019, Napa County has only seen one case per year of this condition. Legionnaires' disease should be added to the list of differential diagnoses in patients who have failed outpatient antibiotic therapy for community-acquired pneumonia, in patients with severe pneumonia (especially those requiring intensive care), and in immunocompromised patients with pneumonia.

Risk factors for developing Legionnaires' disease include:

- Age  $\geq$ 50 years
- Smoking (current or historical)
- Chronic lung disease, such as emphysema or COPD
- Immune system disorders due to disease or medication
- Systemic malignancy
- Underlying illness, such as diabetes, renal failure, or hepatic failure

#### **Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:**

- 1. TEST** patients who have failed outpatient antibiotic therapy for community-acquired pneumonia, patients with severe pneumonia (especially those requiring intensive care), and immunocompromised patients with pneumonia.
  - The preferred diagnostic tests for Legionnaires' disease are culture of lower respiratory secretions (e.g., sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage) on selective media and the Legionella urinary antigen test. **Napa County Public Health requests that providers obtain both sputum culture and a urinary antigen test concurrently.**
- 2. REPORT** all patients who are positive for Legionella by faxing the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to 707-299-4479 or emailing to [CDReports@countyofnapa.org](mailto:CDReports@countyofnapa.org). For questions, please call 707-253-4231.