



# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BULLETIN Legionella Investigation

**Distribution:** Family physicians, Emergency Departments

**Date:** September 3, 2015

Public Health is collaborating with partners to investigate an outbreak of Legionella linked to a multi-unit building in Dartmouth. At this time, there is one laboratory confirmed case of Legionella in a resident, and we are pending laboratory confirmation for three additional residents of the same building.

A specific source has not been identified yet, and a thorough environmental investigation is underway to reveal the source. Public Health will update you when new information becomes available.

As a result, there are few things Public Health asks you to keep in mind:

**Who is most at risk?** The illness most affects middle-aged and older persons, particularly those who smoke cigarettes or have a chronic lung disease. Also at increased risk are persons whose immune system is suppressed by diseases such as cancer, kidney failure requiring dialysis, diabetes, or AIDs. People who take drugs that suppress the immune system are also at higher risk.

If a patient presents to your practice with clinical symptoms of Legionellosis, Public Health recommends:

1. Legionellosis is a notifiable disease. Please report all suspected and confirmed cases to Public Health at 902-481-5800. Leave a detailed message.
2. **Pease notify Public Health if you order any urine or sputum cultures** on persons with symptoms of pneumonia, so that we can facilitate testing.

**Infection Control:** Routine precautions should be followed when providing care for patients/residents.

**LEGIONELLOSIS IS A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE  
REPORT SUSPECTED CASES TO PUBLIC HEALTH**