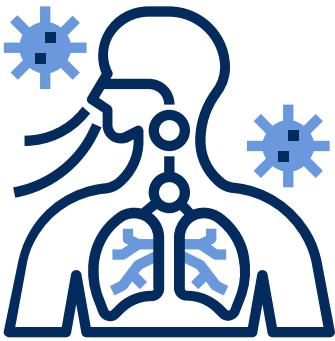


Legionnaires' Disease

KNOW THE FACTS:

Legionnaires' disease is a type of severe pneumonia caused by breathing in small droplets of water that contain the bacteria *Legionella*. When water is not properly maintained in man-made settings, the *Legionella* bacteria can grow and cause illness. **Legionnaires' disease is serious and requires medical attention.**



Common symptoms of Legionnaires' disease:

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Headache
- Fever
- Muscle Aches

Legionnaires' disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics.

Common sources of Legionella bacteria:

- Water used for showering (potable water)
- Hot Tubs
- Decorative Fountains
- Cooling Towers (large air conditioning systems)



Who is most at risk for Legionnaires' disease?

In most cases healthy people exposed to Legionella do not get sick. Being 50 years or older or having certain risk factors can increase your chances of getting sick, including:

- Being a current or former smoker
- Having chronic lung disease, such as emphysema or COPD
- Having a weakened immune system from diseases like cancer, diabetes, or kidney failure
- Taking medication that weakens your immune system

Questions? Call your doctor, or the Division of Health at 609-890-3884

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov
NJ Department of Health (NJDOH): www.nj.gov/health



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