

# Health Advisory: Legionnaires' Disease in Grand Rapids, MN

Minnesota Department of Health, Wed, July 19 14:00 CDT 2023

## Action Steps

**Local and tribal health department:** Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

**Hospitals, clinics, and other facilities:** Please forward to infection preventionists, internists, infectious disease doctors, emergency department staff and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

### Health care providers:

- Consider Legionnaires' disease for patients:
  - with pneumonia (clinical symptoms may include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, weakness, loss of appetite, confusion, nausea, and diarrhea)
  - who also live, work, or have visited Grand Rapids, Minnesota within two weeks prior to their onset of illness.
  - Test patients with clinically compatible illnesses who may be connected to this cluster with the Legionella urinary antigen test. Save any available sputum or other lower respiratory specimens from confirmed or suspect Legionnaires' disease cases for possible submission to the MDH Public Health Laboratory.
- Contact MDH at 651-201-5414 (1-877-676-5414) for consultation. This on-call number is available to health professionals 24/7.
- Report all cases of Legionnaires' disease: [Reporting Legionellosis \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/report.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/report.html)

## Background

MDH has detected a cluster of five laboratory-confirmed Legionnaires' disease cases in adult persons who reported spending time in Grand Rapids, MN during the two weeks prior to their onset of illness; onsets of illness occurred between April and mid-July 2023. Investigation into the source of this cluster is ongoing. MDH encourages Legionella testing in patients with possible Legionnaires' disease who may be connected to this cluster.

## Testing

Test patients with clinically compatible illnesses who may be connected to this cluster using the Legionella urinary antigen test. Legionella-specific culture of available sputum or other lower respiratory specimens are also important to the public health investigation. The MDH Public Health Laboratory can perform Legionella-specific cultures on available sputum or other lower respiratory specimens from patients at no charge; please save samples and contact us for information on submission. Serology is NOT recommended for diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease.

## For More Information

- [MDH: Legionellosis \(\*Legionella\*\) Information for Health Professionals \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/hcp.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/hcp.html)
- [CDC: Legionella Information for Clinicians \(https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians.html)

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network \(www.health.state.mn.us/han\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.