

# **Legionnaires' Disease in Pennsylvania**

***An analysis of outbreaks in Pennsylvania over the last 10 years shows the need for stronger prevention and mitigation measures.***

September 2022

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Philadelphia was home to the first major outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the United States in 1976, when 200 people were sickened and 34 others died after they attended an American Legion convention at a downtown hotel.

Over the last 10 years alone, the commonwealth has witnessed numerous outbreaks and detected contaminated water systems in hospitals and health systems, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, schools and universities, and other public settings.

In the half century since epidemiologists first discovered Legionnaires' disease, we have learned how to test for it, treat it, and prevent it. So, why are people still getting sick and in some cases dying from it every year?

Despite all we have learned and all we know about Legionnaires' disease, there are still very few regulations nationally to prevent Legionnaire's disease. Despite being ground zero for several high-profile incidents, Pennsylvania has never adopted any strategies to address this public health risk --- and the risk is still very real today.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Legionnaires' disease is contracted by inhaling bacteria that are living in mists from poorly treated or stagnant water in building water systems and public water sources. It is not spread person to person.

There are 60-plus species of Legionella, most of which have no major disease implications at all. The pathogen of concern is *Legionella pneumophila*, which causes almost every case of Legionnaires' disease and all deaths from outbreaks. Legionnaires' disease is fatal in up to 33% of cases.

According to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria are found naturally in freshwater environments, including waters that are used as a source by public drinking water systems.

The bacteria can enter man-made water systems, grow, and eventually spread via faucets and showerheads; hot water tanks and heaters; cooling towers (structures that contain water and a fan as part of centralized air-cooling system in buildings or for industrial processes); and large, complex plumbing systems.

Other systems, like hot tubs, decorative fountains, and water features that are not well controlled or have been dormant, also pose a risk.

People who are at highest risk for Legionnaires' disease include: people over 50, current or former smokers, and individuals with weakened immune systems. This includes the roughly 1.4 million Pennsylvanians who have newly recovered from COVID-19. However, about 25% of cases do not fit this risk profile.

Despite these risks, Legionnaires' disease is highly preventable, but it requires effective water management and monitoring as is outlined in the CDC-supported national industry standard: ASHRAE-188, "*Risk Management for Building Water Systems*".

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), strategies to reduce *Legionella pneumophila* in water would have eliminated nine out of 10 documented outbreaks, saving lives, reducing medical costs, and limiting facility closures.

## **CASE RATES:**

U.S. case rates of Legionnaires' disease are on the rise across the United States, with Pennsylvania showing some of the highest rates of infection and illness year after year.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, case rates in Pennsylvania have increased 65.9% over five years. Only four other states --- New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, and Rhode Island --- and the District of Columbia, have rates higher than Pennsylvania over the same period.

Between 2010 and 2017, Pennsylvania has had 31 outbreaks, resulting in 18 deaths.

The numbers may be much higher, as Legionnaires' disease is believed to be severely underdiagnosed. A recent study by the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine estimates that the true number of Legionnaires' disease cases may be 10 times higher than what is reported.

The most [recent publicly reported case Legionnaires' disease in Pennsylvania was found](#) in Jenkins Township, Luzerne County.

Hospitalizations costs for Legionnaires' disease are significant, with patients paying on average about \$38,000 per stay, according to the CDC, and adding stress to an already overburdened health-care system. Many victims who survive have life-long health problems with associated medical costs.

Although case rates appear to have dropped during the pandemic, experts caution against minimizing the rise. Instead, they believe one of three things is happening.

First, there is little public data available. Second, Legionnaires' disease cases are going undetected because both Legionnaires' disease and COVID-19 are a severe pneumonia.

Third, mask mandates protect individuals from both Legionnaires' disease and COVID-19, meaning as fewer people wear masks, more people may be at risk.

## **INCREASED RISK:**

Concern for contracting Legionnaires' disease has been magnified recently.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many public buildings to shut down or limit usage. When buildings have low or no occupancy, water safety is jeopardized. Stagnant water prevents effective chemical treatment, and dormancy of water allows *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria to grow.

Now that schools, malls, office buildings, and other communal settings are reopening and increasing occupancy, or opening and closing intermittently because of COVID variants, and with mask mandates abolished, the risk for outbreaks is on the rise, as closed buildings often reopen without anyone checking the quality of the water inside.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health [has issued its own warning and advisory](#) about the heightened risk of Legionnaires' disease, as has the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, [warning building owners](#) that water in structures shuttered during the coronavirus pandemic could contain contaminants.

[According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#), since 2010 nearly all of the waterborne disease outbreaks (WBDOs) have been associated with "emerging" pathogens such as *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria rather than "traditional" pathogens such as *E. coli*, Salmonella, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, etc., making it essential for a testing protocol that is proven effective at prevention. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CDC, *Legionella pneumophila* is the number one waterborne pathogen in the United States.

## **PREVENTION & MITIGATION:**

There are still very few regulations nationally to prevent Legionnaire's disease.

All U.S. Veteran's Administration facilities have water management plans to prevent Legionnaires' disease that include routine testing.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also requires any facility that receives CMS funding to have in place "policies and procedures that inhibit microbial growth in building water systems that reduce the risk of growth and spread of Legionella and other opportunistic pathogens in water."

Pennsylvania has never adopted strategies to address this public health risk.

An accredited national standard exists (ASHRAE-188) that has been proven to reduce risks. However, it is voluntary and not widely adopted. (In Pennsylvania, a bipartisan measure, [Senate Bill 1125](#), has been introduced in the 2021-22 legislative session to codify the CDC-supported seven-step ASHRAE-188 for both public drinking water providers and certain building owners.)

The ASHRAE-188 steps that guide building managers on reducing the risks of water contamination from *Legionella pneumophila* are as follows: 1.) identify the water management team members; 2.) diagram where and how water flows into a system and/or building; 3.) identify areas of risk, especially fixtures that can create mist; 4.) determine how those risk areas will be controlled; 5.) pre-plan corrective actions when controls may be out of specification; 6.) verify the plan (Is the plan implemented as described?) and validate the plan (Is the plan controlling the risk of disease?); and 7.) document the findings. A good public communication plan is also helpful.

Prevention and mitigation simply make sense. Remediation is much more costly than managing and testing, without question.

Remediation of a building with unacceptable levels of *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria is very expensive, disruptive to business, and reputationally damaging. It is far better to perform routine Legionella pneumophila testing to catch increased risk early, as well as to help prevent disease exposure to occupants.

## **PUBLIC REPORTING:**

The following list details some of the media reports of outbreaks over a 10-year period between 2012 and 2022 in Pennsylvania. This is only a partial list and not meant to be exhaustive, as many cases go unreported or get misdiagnosed.

The snapshot included here simply shows the very real public impact Legionnaires' disease can have on individuals and institutions --- and to make clear that because of inaction, a half century later, the public health risk of Legionnaires' disease persists.

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### **2012**

WESA 90.5 FM

#### **Butler VA Center Water System Tests Positive for Bacteria that causes Legionnaire's Disease**

The bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease has been found in the water at one building at the VA Butler Healthcare facility.

<https://www.wesa.fm/science-health-tech/2012-12-12/butler-va-center-water-system-tests-positive-for-bacteria-that-causes-legionnaires-disease>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**Bacteria that cause Legionnaires' Disease Found in Butler VA Center**

Bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease have been found in the water supply at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare center in Butler.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/north/2012/12/12/Bacteria-that-cause-Legionnaires-disease-found-in-Butler-VA-center/stories/201212120140>

The Tribune-Review

**Water at VA Butler building tests positive for Legionella bacteria**

An Illinois manufacturer says it found last year that the Pittsburgh VA fell short in maintaining hospital water systems in Oakland, nearly 12 months before VA officials revealed a Legionnaires' disease outbreak that might have started in the systems.

<https://archive.triblive.com/news/water-at-va-butler-building-tests-positive-for-legionella-bacteria/>

KDKA-TV 2 (CBS)

**Routine Testing Uncovers Legionnaire's At Butler VA**

BUTLER (KDKA) – There are new concerns about Legionnaire's disease after a recent water test at the Butler VA Hospital.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/routine-testing-uncovers-legionnaires-at-butler-va/>

WTAE-TV 4 (ABC)

**VA Butler shuts off water after finding Legionnaires' disease**

Video: A Veterans Affairs hospital in Butler has shut off the water at one of its buildings after the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease was found.

<https://www.wtae.com/article/va-butler-shuts-off-water-after-finding-legionnaires-disease/7113515>

CNN

**VA Under Scrutiny after Legionnaires' Cases in Pittsburgh**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (CNN) - Twenty-nine patients at the Veterans Administration hospital in Pittsburgh have been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease since January 2011, raising questions about the institution's safety practices.

<https://www.cnn.com/2012/12/13/health/legionnaires-hospital-water/index.html>

WPXI-TV 11 (NBC)

**Hearing: Legionnaires' may have killed 5 at VA hospital**

PITTSBURGH — Federal health officials now say five people may have died from Legionnaires' disease at local Veterans Affairs hospitals over the last two years, not the one person previously reported, a congressman said Tuesday.

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/hearing-legionnaires-may-have-killed-5-va-hospital/289474068/>

WPXI-TV 11 (NBC)

### **Legionnaire's Probe at Pittsburgh VA Widening**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The investigation into Legionnaire's disease at Pittsburgh's Veterans Affairs hospitals has widened to claims that some union workers have gotten sick there and the death of a man in October.

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/legionnaires-probe-pittsburgh-va-widening/197726076/>

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### **2013 – Congressional Hearing (Murphy + Doyle)**

WTAE-TV 4 (ABC)

### **Hearing scheduled on Legionnaires' outbreak at Pittsburgh VA**

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Congressional leaders will hear testimony in Washington about the Legionnaires' outbreak in less than two weeks.

<https://www.wtae.com/article/hearing-scheduled-on-legionnaires-outbreak-at-pittsburgh-va/7459632>

The Tribune-Review

### **Rep. Tim Murphy to VA head: Punish leaders over Legionnaires' outbreak**

A Western Pennsylvania congressman made an emotional appeal to the secretary of Veterans Affairs on Thursday, invoking the memories of veterans who died in a Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Pittsburgh in asking him to discipline those who oversee VA hospitals here.

<https://archive.triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/rep-tim-murphy-to-va-head-punish-leaders-over-legionnaires-outbreak/>

U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle Press Release

### **Congressional Committee Schedules Hearing On Pittsburgh Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak**

Washington, DC – U.S. Representatives Mike Doyle (PA-14) and Tim Murphy (PA-18) along with U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) expressed support for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's decision that it will hold a hearing on the recent outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease at the VA's Pittsburgh facilities.

<https://doyle.house.gov/press-release/congressional-committee-schedules-hearing-pittsburgh-legionnaires%E2%80%99-disease-outbreak>

WESA 90.5 FM

### **Congressman Murphy: VA System Needs to Rebuild Trust in Wake of Legionella Admission**

Officials with the VA Pittsburgh Health System have revealed that about 10 veterans may have been sickened by Legionella bacteria several years before a larger outbreak that began in 2011.

<https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2013-07-03/congressman-murphy-va-system-needs-to-rebuild-trust-in-wake-of-legionella-admission>

The Tribune-Review

### **Legionnaires' victim checked in at VA 2 days after CDC's warning**

In the end, hallucinations that he'd been poisoned overtook the faith William Nicklas placed in the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

<https://archive.triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheny/legionnaires-victim-checked-in-at-va-2-days-after-cdcs-warning/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### **Pittsburgh VA joins organization to fight Legionnaires'**

The chief of staff for the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System didn't intend his remark Tuesday to be historically ironic.

<https://www.jhf.org/admin/uploads/post-gazette-pittsburgh-va-joins-organization-to-fight-legionnaires.pdf>

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## **2013 - UPMC (nursing home)**

KDKA-TV 2 (CBS)

### **Legionella Bacteria Detected At UPMC Nursing Home In Squirrel Hill**

PITTSBURGH (KDKA) -- UPMC confirms that Legionella bacteria has been detected at Heritage Place, a 145-bed skilled nursing facility managed by UPMC in Squirrel Hill.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/legionella-bacteria-detected-at-upmc-nursing-home-in-squirrel-hill/>

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## **2014**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### **New Erie VA center director says he did not mislead congressman**

David Cord said Tuesday he expects to be the director of the Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center for "a long time."

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2014/11/18/VA-director-in-Erie-responds-to-Congressman-Murphy-s-accusations/stories/201411180181>

WTAE-TV 4 (ABC)

### **Memo shows VA Pittsburgh knew about potential for Legionnaires' outbreak**



PITTSBURGH — A new memo has surfaced showing the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System knew Legionella bacteria could surface in the hospital more than a year before the threat became public knowledge.

<https://www.wtae.com/article/memo-shows-va-pittsburgh-knew-about-potential-for-legionnaires-outbreak-1/7465301>

Erie Times-News

**New Erie VA director addresses allegations about wait lists, Legionnaires' outbreak**

David Cord, the new director of the Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center, said he never advised a VA spokesman against publicly disclosing a Legionnaires' outbreak at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

<https://www.goerie.com/story/news/2014/11/18/new-erie-va-director-addresses/24705405007/>

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**2014 – UPMC (Presby)**

WTAE-TV 4 (ABC)

**Legionella bacteria discovered in ice machines at UPMC Presbyterian**

PITTSBURGH — The bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease was found in ice machines at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's flagship hospital, where officials say one patient died and two were sickened by the bug last year.

<https://www.wtae.com/article/legionella-bacteria-discovered-in-ice-machines-at-upmc-presbyterian/7466047>

Becker's Hospital Review

**Legionella Bacteria Found in UPMC Presbyterian Water**

Infection control workers at UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh have discovered the presence of Legionella bacteria in three patient rooms' sinks, according to a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review report.

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/legionella-bacteria-found-in-upmc-presbyterian-water.html>

The Tribune-Review

**Potentially deadly Legionella bacteria found at UPMC Presbyterian hospital**

Infection control workers at UPMC Presbyterian hospital this week found Legionella bacteria in sinks in three patient rooms, but officials said no patients have tested positive for Legionnaires' disease, a potentially fatal pneumonia.

<https://archive.triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/potentially-deadly-legionella-bacteria-found-at-upmc-presbyterian-hospital/>

The Tribune-Review

**Legionella bacteria found in hospital ice machines at UPMC Presbyterian**

Legionella bacteria in ice machines at UPMC Presbyterian contributed to one patient's death and sickened two others, hospital officials disclosed on Thursday, calling it an unusual episode uncovered because a patient aspirated ice chips.

<https://archive.triblive.com/news/health-now/legionella-bacteria-found-in-hospital-ice-machines-at-upmc-presbyterian/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### **Ice machines were source of Legionnaires'**

After one patient died and two were sickened by Legionnaires' disease in November and December at UPMC Presbyterian, where they contracted the disease, UPMC has a message for hospitals nationwide.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2014/05/02/UPMC-Pittsburgh-hospital-ice-machines-Legionella-patients/stories/201405020165>

WPXI-TV 11 (NBC)

### **Potentially deadly Legionella bacteria found at UPMC Presbyterian**

Video Clip

<https://www.wpxi.com/video/archive/potentially-deadly-legionella-bacteria-found-upmc-presbyterian/WMIZFGKEWJVTOH2DTLI4LDEM4/>

WESA 90.5 FM

### **Legionella Detected at UPMC Presbyterian; No Patients Sickened**

Eleven patients from a unit at UPMC Presbyterian were moved to other parts of the hospital following the detection of legionella in several sinks in a recently-remodeled area.

<https://www.wesa.fm/science-health-tech/2014-07-16/legionella-detected-at-upmc-presbyterian-no-patients-sickened>

WTAE-TV 4 (ABC)

### **Legionella bacteria discovered in ice machines at UPMC Presby**

Video Clip: The bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease was found in ice machines at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's flagship hospital, where officials say one patient died and two were sickened by the bug last year.

<https://www.wtae.com/amp/article/legionella-bacteria-discovered-in-ice-machines-at-upmc-presby/7137858>

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## **2015**

WPXI-TV 11 (NBC)

### **Water advisory issued at Butler VA due to bacteria**

BUTLER, Pa. — Channel 11 News has learned that the water at the Butler VA has been shut off because of bacteria. Administrators with the VA told Channel 11's Lisa Sylvester that they discovered the problem during routine testing.

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/water-advisory-issued-butler-va-due-bacteria/46210536/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**Questions remain over settlement reached with fired VA director**

When the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs fired Terry Wolf as director of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System after months of being under fire for not taking action on scandals in Pittsburgh and elsewhere, it celebrated the move publicly as an example of the "VA's commitment to hold leaders accountable and get veterans the care they need."

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/region/2015/02/21/Questions-remain-over-settlement-reached-with-fired-Pittsburgh-VA-director-Terry-Wolf/stories/201502210024>

WPVI-TV 6 (ABC)

**West Chester U. employee positive for Legionnaires' disease**

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (WPVI) -- An employee of West Chester University has tested positive for Legionnaire's disease.

<https://6abc.com/legionnaires-disease-legionella-bacteria-main-hall/893283/>

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**2016**

Philadelphia Magazine

**11 Things You Might Not Know About Legionnaires' Disease**

Forty years ago, U.S. veterans arrived in town for a convention. They wound up with a tragedy of national proportions.

<https://www.phillymag.com/news/2016/07/22/legionnaires-disease-philadelphia/>

The Tribune-Review

**Kane Regional Center in McKeesport tests positive for Legionella**

A McKeesport nursing home has tested positive for Legionella bacteria, Allegheny County officials said Thursday.

<https://archive.triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/kane-regional-center-in-mckeesport-tests-positive-for-legionella/>

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**2016 – AGH**

The Tribune-Review

**Legionella bacteria found at Allegheny General Hospital**

A patient's positive test for Legionnaires' disease triggered an investigation that found Legionella bacteria in two water tanks at Allegheny General Hospital, officials said Wednesday.

<https://archive.triblive.com/news/legionella-bacteria-found-at-allegheny-general-hospital/>

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## 2017

The Tribune-Review

### **Legionella found in multiple areas at Pittsburgh VA hospital**

Routine water testing at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare campus in Pittsburgh's Oakland section revealed bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease in several areas throughout the facility, VA officials said Saturday.

<https://archive.triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheny/legionella-found-in-multiple-areas-at-pittsburgh-va-hospital/>

The Patriot-News/PennLive

### **Legionella bacteria found in Pennsylvania VA hospital years after fatal outbreak**

The bacteria responsible for Legionnaire's disease has been discovered at a Pittsburgh Veterans Affairs hospital in the same healthcare system where an outbreak of the disease sickened 22 and killed at least 5 years ago. The VA logo is pictured above on a hospital in Texas. Photo via Wikimedia Commons.

[https://www.pennlive.com/news/2017/02/legionella\\_bacteria\\_found\\_in\\_p.html](https://www.pennlive.com/news/2017/02/legionella_bacteria_found_in_p.html)

The Tribune-Review

### **Legionella found in multiple areas at Pittsburgh VA hospital**

Routine water testing at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare campus in Pittsburgh's Oakland section revealed bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease in several areas throughout the facility, VA officials said Saturday.

<https://archive.triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheny/legionella-found-in-multiple-areas-at-pittsburgh-va-hospital/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### **CDC corrects journal article on Pittsburgh VA Legionnaires' outbreak**

In a rare move, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has corrected a journal article it authored about its investigation of the 2011 and 2012 Legionnaires' outbreak at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/healthtoday/2017/07/23/CDC-error-correction-journal-article-on-Pittsburgh-VA-Legionnaires-outbreak/stories/201707180024>

Invisiverse

## **Deadly Legionnaires' Disease Bacteria Strikes Again at Two Nursing Homes in Pennsylvania**

A bacterium which triggers respiratory disease has been detected in the water systems of two Pennsylvania nursing facilities.

<https://invisiverse.wonderhowto.com/news/deadly-legionnaires-disease-bacteria-strikes-again-two-nursing-homes-pennsylvania-0176525/>

PhillyVoice

### **Kennett High School temporarily closed over Legionnaires' disease bacteria**

A Chester County high school has been temporarily closed on Friday after the bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease were found in a building water source.

<https://www.phillyvoice.com/chester-county-school-temporarily-closed-over-legionnaires-disease-bacteria/>

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## **2019**

PhillyVoice

### **Why are people still dying of Legionnaires' disease?**

In the nearly 50 years since epidemiologists first discovered Legionnaires' disease, we have learned how to test for it, treat it and prevent it. So why are people still dying from it and why are more and more people becoming sick with it every single year?

<https://www.phillyvoice.com/legionnaires-disease-deaths-philly-atlanta/>

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## **2020 – PWSA**

The Tribune-Review

### **PWSA: Water in shuttered buildings could contain contaminants like Legionella**

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority is warning building owners that water in structures shuttered during the coronavirus pandemic could contain contaminants.

<https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/pwsa-water-in-shuttered-buildings-could-contain-contaminants-like-legionella/>

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## **2020 – Allegheny Co**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### **Legionnaires' case prompts cautious county to test water**

An Allegheny County Department of Human Services employee who works Downtown somehow contracted Legionnaires' disease, prompting the county to check the water in

the building where the employee works “out of an abundance of caution,” the county said Tuesday.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/02/25/Legionnaires-case-prompts-cautious-county-to-test-water/stories/202002250116>

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## 2020 – Nursing Home

The Patriot-News/PennLive

### **Pa. nursing home with coronavirus cases tests positive for bacteria that causes Legionnaires Disease: Today in Pa**

In the midst of fighting COVID-19, a Pennsylvania nursing home tests positive for the bacteria that causes Legionnaires Disease.

<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/04/pa-nursing-home-with-coronavirus-cases-tests-positive-for-bacteria-that-causes-legionnaires-disease-today-in-pa.html>

The Tribune-Review

### **Derry Twp. nursing home with coronavirus cases tests positive for Legionella bacteria**

A Westmoreland County nursing home already infected with the coronavirus now has tested positive for the bacteria that causes Legionnaires’ Disease.

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/derry-twp-nursing-home-with-coronavirus-cases-tests-positive-for-legionella-bacteria/>

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## 2020 – Chester School

CBS Philly

### **Legionnaires’ Bacteria Found In Pennsylvania School’s Water**

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (CBS/AP) — Routine testing has uncovered the bacteria that cause Legionnaires’ disease in the hot water at a southeastern Pennsylvania high school.

<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2017/04/07/legionnaires-found-pennsylvania-schools-water/>

Associated Press

### **Legionnaires’ bacteria found in Pennsylvania school’s water**

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) Routine testing has uncovered the bacteria that cause Legionnaires’ disease in the hot water at a southeastern Pennsylvania high school.

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2017/04/07/legionnaires-bacteria-found-in-pennsylvania-schools-water/amp/>

The (Allentown) Morning Call

### **Legionnaires' bacteria found in Pennsylvania school's water**

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) — Routine testing has uncovered the bacteria that cause Legionnaires' disease in the hot water at a southeastern Pennsylvania high school.

<https://www.mcall.com/news/pennsylvania/mc-pa-chester-legionella-bacteria-0407-20170407-story.html>

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### **2020 – Fox Chapel School District**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

#### **Tests detect legionella at 4 Fox Chapel Area schools**

Officials with the Fox Chapel Area School District said tests has found “elevated levels of legionella” in the water at four of its schools.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2020/08/22/water-testing-legionella-Fox-Chapel-Area-schools-reopening/stories/202008220051>

WPXI-TV 11 (NBC)

#### **Legionella found in water at 4 of 6 Fox Chapel schools; students return to class Monday**

FOX CHAPEL, Pa. — Elevated levels of the bacteria that cause Legionnaires’ disease were found in the water at four of six schools in Fox Chapel, district officials said Friday.

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/back-to-school/legionella-found-water-4-6-fox-chapel-schools-students-return-class-monday/AEKK5BL2ZRBVTJFRLGDM6Y4U/>

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### **2021**

PA Home Page (WBRE/WYOU)

#### **Local man hospitalized with Legionnaires’ disease**

There is a case of Legionnaires’ disease in Luzerne County. It’s a severe form of pneumonia attacking the lungs and for one NEPA man, it’s meant a frightening week in the ICU and he may never be the same.

<https://www.pahomepage.com/top-stories/local-man-hospitalized-with-legionnaires-disease/>

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### **2022**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

#### **Dr. Meilin Young: Senate bill would protect Pa. from Legionnaires outbreaks**

As our state and nation emerge from the health-care crisis caused by COVID-19, another public health risk looms. U.S. case rates of Legionnaires' disease, a severe and sometimes deadly form of pneumonia caused by a bacterium known as Legionella pneumophila, are on the rise across the United States, with Pennsylvania showing some of the highest rates of infection and illness year after year.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2022/03/15/senate-bill-legionnaires-outbreaks-dr-meilin-young-pennsylvania-respiratory-disease-covid-19/stories/202203160012>

###