



Public Health Alert

March 2, 2023

Legionnaires' Disease Associated with Orleans Hotel and Casino

SUMMARY POINTS

- Two cases of Legionnaires' disease among guests who stayed at Orleans Hotel and Casino in December 2022 and January 2023 have been reported
- Providers should consider Legionella infection when evaluating patients for community-acquired pneumonia if they report exposure at the Orleans Hotel after December 16, 2022
- Diagnostic testing for Legionella should include both urine antigen and culture of respiratory specimens
- Patients with confirmed or suspected Legionella infections should be reported to SNHD; Fax: 702-759-1414, Online <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/>, or Phone: 702-759-1300.

Situation:

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) has identified two laboratory-confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease among guests who stayed separately at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada in December 2022, and January 2023. In response to the initial illness reports, SNHD conducted environmental sampling at the property and identified *Legionella* bacteria in the water system of the affected rooms. The Orleans Hotel is assisting in the investigation and is initiating appropriate remediation efforts.

Legionnaires' disease, a bacterial disease caused by the *Legionella* bacteria, presents as pneumonia. Clinical symptoms of pneumonia vary but include acute onset of lower respiratory illness with fever and/or cough. Hospitalization is common with this illness, and it has a 10% fatality rate. Symptoms typically present 2-14 days following exposure to an environmental source, typically through inhalation of contaminated aerosolized water. Risk factors for developing Legionnaires' disease include age \geq 50 years, history of smoking, chronic lung disease, diabetes, kidney failure, and disorders that weaken the immune system. Patients should be asked about travel in the 14 days prior to symptom onset as an estimated 10-15% of Legionnaires' disease are associated with recent travel.

Actions for Clinicians:

Providers should consider *Legionella* when evaluating patients with community-acquired pneumonia or those with febrile respiratory illness who report exposure to the Orleans Hotel after December 16, 2022. If diagnosis is being considered, please obtain urine antigen and sputum culture for Legionella. Please report using the contact information in this health alert any suspected Legionellosis cases to SNHD immediately.



Laboratory Diagnosis and Treatment:

Testing to confirm Legionnaires' disease should include both urine antigen testing and culture of lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue or pleural fluid (culture must be performed with the appropriate media). Culture is preferred for diagnosis as it has the added benefit of allowing typing and genomic sequencing of the isolated organism, which allows comparison to environmental sources. For individuals with suspected illness, empiric treatment with a macrolide or fluoroquinolone is recommended.

What is Being Done:

SNHD is working closely with the Orleans Hotel and Casino and appropriate remediation efforts have been initiated. SNHD will continue to follow up sampling to ensure remediation efforts are effective. SNHD is also working to identify any additional cases associated with exposure at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. SNHD requests that all persons who may have developed illness after exposure to the Orleans complete this self-reporting survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7242768/23-008>.

Reporting/Contact Us:

Clinical providers and laboratories should report all confirmed and suspected Legionella cases to SNHD; Fax: 702-759-1414, Online <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-info/reportable-diseases/>, Phone: 702-759-1300. Anyone with additional questions can contact the Health District's Helpline at (702) 759-4636 (INFO), Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

Additional Resources

- [Legionella Information for Clinicians \(https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians.html)
- [Legionnaires' Disease Quick Facts \(https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/legionnaires-disease-legionellosis/\)](https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/Health-Topics/legionnaires-disease-legionellosis/)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fermin S', is positioned above the printed name.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH
District Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention **Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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