



Public Health Advisory
08/01/2024

Two Cases of Travel-Associated Legionella Reported

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) has confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease among guests who stayed at Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino.

- One individual stayed during December 2023, and the other individual stayed during June 2024.
- Water sampling conducted on the second case detected *Legionella sp*
- The facility continues to conduct remediation of the water system.
- The most recent testing performed on 7/24/2024 has come back negative.
- Legionnaires' Disease (LD) has a case fatality rate of 5-10%.

Recommendations for Providers:

- ✓ **Consider.** Providers should consider *Legionella* infection when evaluating patients for community-acquired pneumonia who:
 - Experience: cough, fever, shortness of breath, myalgias, or headaches.
 - Failed outpatient antibiotics for community-acquired pneumonia.
 - Report overnight travel with water exposure (hot tubs, showering, decorative fountains).
 - Report a stay at Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino from July 11, 2024 – July 24, 2024.
- ✓ **Test.** While testing for more common causes of respiratory illness, consider testing for Legionella when appropriate. Recommended tests include:
 - Legionella urine antigen testing
 - Culture of lower respiratory secretions when possible
 - Lower respiratory sputum PCR or DFA

Test	Specimen	ARUP	CPL	LabCorp	Quest
<i>Legionella</i> Antigen	Urine	0070322	4614	182246	8856
<i>Legionella</i> Culture	Sputum or Bronchoalveolar	0060113	4878	086868	688
<i>Legionella</i> DNA, PCR		2010125			15062
<i>Legionella</i> DFA	Lavage	2004598		085506	34475

- ✓ **Treat.** Treatment for Legionella is a macrolide (azithromycin) or a fluoroquinolone (levofloxacin). There is no need to change therapy if a patient is already on empiric treatment with another macrolide or quinolone and is symptomatically improving.
- ✓ **Report.** Legionella is a nationally notifiable disease. Ensure timely reporting to SNHD's Disease Surveillance and Control via Fax 702-759-1414 or Phone (702) 759-1300.

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