



## **HEALTH ADVISORY #50**

### **LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE (LEGIONELLOSIS) IN WEST VIRGINIA**

**TO:** West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, and Local Health Departments

**FROM:** Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH, Acting State Health Officer  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

**DATE:** August 25, 2011

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO APPLICABLE MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) has been notified of 2 out-of-state cases of Legionnaire's disease that were potentially exposed in West Virginia. Both cases have reported overnight stays at the same facility in the Northern panhandle of West Virginia during their exposure history.

Healthcare providers should recognize Legionnaire's disease symptoms, test and report appropriately:

- Clinical features generally include radiographic pneumonia with cough, fever, and chest pain; hospitalization is common. More info at: <http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/top10.htm>
- Urinary antigen assay AND culture of respiratory secretions on selective media are the preferred diagnostic tests for Legionnaires' disease.
- Suspected cases of Legionnaire's disease in West Virginia are required to be reported to the local health department where the patient lives within 1 week. Possible outbreak-related cases should be reported immediately.

Local health department staff should investigate all possible cases of Legionnaire's disease thoroughly, including eliciting a travel history during the 2–14 days prior to symptom onset. Alert DIDE immediately if a case is found with travel history during the exposure period to the Northern panhandle.

*Please contact WV Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271 (in WV) or 304-558-5358 for questions.*

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information to the targeted audiences noted.

**Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**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.