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## **City of Milwaukee Health Department Continues Legionella Investigation**

*No new cases reported in city at this time, possible sources being tested*

MILWAUKEE -- The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) continues its investigation into possible sources tied to 14 confirmed cases of Legionnaire's disease in the city.

"Our medical and environmental health experts are proceeding with an in-depth investigation, and continue to collaborate with other local health jurisdictions as well as state health officials," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.

Legionnaire's disease is a pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria. It cannot be spread person to person. Those most susceptible are individuals who smoke heavily, have chronic lung disease, or have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or cancer. Of the current 14 cases, 13 are reported to have underlying health conditions and four remain hospitalized. No new cases have been confirmed at this time. The MHD asks area health care providers to continue to be vigilant in testing suspect cases.

Legionnaire's disease is acquired after inhaling mists from a water source that contains the bacteria. Possible sources can include large cooling towers, hot water tanks, decorative fountains and hot tubs. Drinking water is not a source of legionella.

"Our investigators continue to test and analyze possible sources," said Commissioner Baker. "Current samples have all returned preliminary negative results."

Further information, including legionella signs and symptoms and a cooling tower maintenance protocol for businesses can be found at [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health).

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