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**City of Milwaukee Health Department Legionella Investigation Update**  
*Total of 19 cases reported at this time, no single source of contamination or exposure identified*

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has confirmed additional cases of Legionnaires’ disease, bringing the total number of city residents diagnosed with the illness to 19 since June 1 of this year. A total of 27 cases have been reported in Milwaukee County during this same time period.

“Our environmental health staff has taken samples from a variety of potential community sources. All samples have returned negative results,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. “The City of Milwaukee Health Department continues to closely monitor cases and is engaged in outreach efforts regarding possible sources.”

Legionnaires’ disease is a pneumonia caused by Legionella, a bacterium found naturally in the environment. It is acquired after inhaling mist or water vapor from a source that contains the bacteria. It is not acquired from drinking water, and cannot be spread person to person. Treatment is available for those with confirmed cases. Those most susceptible are individuals who smoke heavily, have chronic lung disease, or have other underlying medical conditions. Of the current cases, a majority have reported underlying health conditions.

Possible sources can include large cooling towers, hot water tanks, decorative fountains, and hot tubs.

The MHD will continue to conduct outreach to local businesses and building owners regarding cooling tower maintenance. MHD will also continue surveillance for new cases in coordination with state health officials and other local jurisdictions. Area health care providers are asked to continue to test and report suspect cases of atypical pneumonia to local public health departments.

Further information regarding Legionella and proper maintenance of building water systems can be found at [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health).

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