



NEWS RELEASE

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF HEALTH

January 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Investigating Legionnaires' Disease Reported at Retirement Facility in DuPage County

Media Inquiries:

Don Bolger
Public Information Officer
630.221.7374

DuPage County Board of Health

Sam Tornatore, J.D.
President

Lanny Wilson, M.D.
Vice President

Robert Spadoni, J.D.
Secretary

John Novak
Treasurer

Lori Bottoms
Melinda Finch

Nadeem N. Hussain, M.D.

Robert Larsen, J.D.

Uzma Muneer, M.D.

Lawrence J. Schouten, M.D.

Charlie A. Thurston

James P. Weeks, D.D.S.

Karen Ayala, M.P.H.
Executive Director

DUPAGE COUNTY—The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are investigating three cases of Legionnaires' disease that have occurred since May 2019 at Windsor Park retirement community in Carol Stream.

DCHD and IDPH are working with Windsor Park officials to collect information and further investigate these cases, which will include an on-site visit by IDPH to test the facility's water.

Windsor Park is also conducting an investigation and taking action based on its water management plan and implementing multiple control measures. This includes flushing the plumbing system.

Additionally, Windsor Park is working to provide information to potentially impacted residents, employees and visitors about *Legionella*. Windsor Park staff are following IDPH recommendations to identify other potential cases and to ensure appropriate testing and clinical management.

Legionella bacteria occur naturally in the environment. Water containing *Legionella* can be aerosolized through cooling towers, showers, hot tubs, and decorative fountains, and can cause Legionnaires' disease, a serious lung infection (pneumonia) when inhaled. Legionnaires' disease is not passed from person to person. Outbreaks are most commonly associated with buildings or structures that have complex water systems like hotels, hospitals, long-term care facilities and cruise ships. The bacteria can become a health concern when they grow and spread in human-made water systems, like hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems and decorative fountains. Most healthy people do not get Legionnaires' disease after being exposed to *Legionella* bacteria.

More information about Legionnaires' disease can be found on the [IDPH website](#) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#).

###

