

Health Advisory: Legionellosis in Albert Lea

Minnesota Department of Health, Fri, July 9 14:00 CDT 2021

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, urgent care centers, and convenience clinics.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please distribute to infection preventionists, internists, infectious disease doctors, emergency department staff and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

Health care providers:

- Consider Legionnaires' disease when evaluating patients who work, stayed, or visited the **Ramada by Wyndham** in Albert Lea, MN.
- Have heightened vigilance for patients suspected of having Legionnaires' disease based on symptoms including muscle aches, chills, shortness of breath, headache, fatigue, loss of appetite, and coughing. These symptoms are often followed by high fever (102-105°F), pneumonia, and occasionally abdominal pain and/or diarrhea.
- Test patients with clinically compatible illnesses linked to this facility with the **Legionella urinary antigen test**. Legionella-specific culture of available sputum/other lower respiratory specimens are also valuable to the investigation. MDH is able to perform Legionella-specific cultures on available sputum/respiratory specimens from patients with positive urinary antigen tests at no charge; contact us at the number below for information on submission. Serology is NOT recommended for diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease.
- Contact MDH at 651-201-5414 (1-877-676-5414) for consultation. This on-call number is available to health professionals 24/7.

Summary

MDH has been informed of Legionnaires' disease with onsets from June 29 through July 5, 2021, who have stayed or visited Ramada by Wyndham in Albert Lea, MN.

Recommendations

MDH recommends heightened vigilance for patients presenting with symptoms of Legionnaires' disease and encourages early diagnosis.

MDH requests that patients with clinically compatible illnesses that may be linked to this facility are tested with the Legionella urinary antigen test. Legionella-specific culture of available sputum/other lower respiratory specimens may also be valuable to the investigation. MDH is able to perform Legionella-specific cultures on available sputum/respiratory specimens from patients at no charge. Serology is NOT recommended for diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease.

HEALTH ADVISORY: LEGIONELLOSIS IN ALBERT LEA

Further Information

- [MDH Legionellosis \(Legionella\) Information for Health Professionals \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/hcp.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/legionellosis/hcp.html)

A copy of this HAN is available at:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/index.html>

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.