
From: Johnson, Shannon (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 1:39 PM
To: Miller, Corinne (DCH)
Subject: FW: Genesee Legionellosis Investigation

From: Johnson, Shannon (DCH)
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 3:45 PM
To: sjohnson@gchd.us; bchilds@gchd.us; scupal@gchd.us; jhenry@gchd.us; shasan@gchd.us; mvalacak@gchd.us
Cc: Collins, Jim (DCH); Fiedler, Jay (DCH); Bohm, Susan (DCH)
Subject: Genesee Legionellosis Investigation

Greetings GCHD,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning. After being updated on where GCHD is in the investigation process, we have identified some items that need additional details and/or may require additional data gathering efforts. In addition, we've listed areas where we can provide personnel to assist with data collection/analysis or aid in communication between the involved governmental departments during the outbreak investigation. At this point, the priorities in the public health investigation are to determine the scope of the outbreak and to define as clearly as possible the characteristics of the cases of Legionnaire's Disease and Pontiac Fever. These data will be critical to help inform and provide direction for the environmental side of the investigation.

Data being requested by MDCH and/or suggested data collection needs to be addressed:

- 1) Please provide the name of the primary point-of-contact for the overall GCHD legionellosis investigation.
- 2) The current copy of the GCHD Legionnaires Disease outbreak data collection line list is requested and updates sent to MDCH on a regular basis.
- 3) Onset dates or estimated onset dates need to be determined for all cases.
- 4) A current map of the municipal water system needs to be obtained and cases' residences mapped in relation to the water system.
- 5) The investigation needs a Genesee-specific supplemental questionnaire beyond the MDCH supplemental form and the 6 questions in the email message dated 10/17/14.
- 6) All previous cases (since 5/1/14) and new cases should be re-interviewed as soon as possible with the new outbreak-specific questionnaire. If cases are not available, then a proxy should be interviewed, ideally someone from the same household.
- 7) To look for cases of milder illness such as Pontiac Fever, the questionnaire should ask if there are other household members who have had a similar respiratory illness. Any household contacts with legionellosis-consistent illness should also be interviewed with the outbreak-specific questionnaire.
- 8) Clinical culture specimens, in addition to urine antigen testing, should be collected from all suspect cases where individuals are seeking medical care.
- 9) Hospitals should be queried to determine whether any previously diagnosed cases had respiratory cultures collected and whether any of these culture specimens were retained. If so, it should be requested that these samples be held until a determination on environmental testing can be made.

Assistance that MDCH can provide to Genesee to aid in the outbreak investigation:

- 1) MDCH can provide language to GCHD for distribution to the medical community regarding the request for clinical respiratory culture collection on all suspect cases of legionellosis (Legionnaire's Disease and Pontiac Fever).

- 2) MDCH staff is available to conduct medical record extraction, as needed.
- 3) MDCH staff can assist with data entry into MDSS, as needed.
- 4) MDCH staff can help with the development of a Genesee-specific outbreak questionnaire.
- 5) MDCH is willing to assist with supplemental questionnaire data collection by conducting case interviews (on previously and/or newly diagnosed cases) and also by assisting with data analysis, as needed.
- 6) MDCH can assist with the coordination and communication with MDEQ for specific data requests by GCHD.
- 7) The MDCH PIO can work with the GCHD PIO to develop a coordinated public health message to respond to public and media inquiries.

If there are other issues that we have not addressed where our assistance would be helpful, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your efforts and recognize the delicate situation you are dealing during this investigation. We look forward to continued communication and collaboration with you.

Regards,
Shannon Johnson

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