

"Subject: Legionellosis in S.E. Michigan"

Detroit City, Wayne and Macomb Counties have reported 35 cases of Legionellosis in June. This represents the highest number of Legionellosis cases for the month of June over the past decade and new cases continue to be identified in these jurisdictions. Most patients were or are still hospitalized (some in the ICU) and symptoms reported include fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, nausea and diarrhea. The CDC has also provided notification indicating an increase in Legionellosis cases in the Northeast (NY, DE, CT & PA).

Investigations are ongoing in Southeast Michigan to determine common sources of exposure. We are asking that the clinical community assist in this investigation through accurate identification, testing and reporting of all suspect cases of Legionellosis.

Attached, please find guidance that has been prepared to assist clinicians in case evaluation and facilitate specimen collection/testing as well as an updated "Supplemental Interview Form" for local health department use in evaluating reported cases."

Please note that in the attachment, there is introductory room to offer a local assessment of the situation and the rationale behind distributing the MIHAN message. We feel that GCHD is best positioned distribute a message to the healthcare community and to provide local context to that message but are certainly available to provide assistance to either function if you'd prefer.

Again, we do look forward to hearing your thoughts on Shannon's previous post and stand ready to assist in whatever capacity might best serve the investigation.

All My Best,
Jim

Jim Collins MPH, RS
Director
Communicable Disease Division
Michigan Department of Community Health
201 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48913
Desk: 517-335-8586
Cell: PPI

From: Johnson, Shannon (DCH)
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 3:45 PM
To: gjohnson@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

Shannon Andrews Johnson, MPH
Infectious Disease Epidemiologist