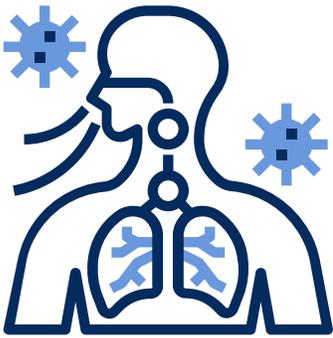


# Legionnaires' Disease

## KNOW THE FACTS:

Legionnaires' disease is a type of severe pneumonia caused by breathing in small droplets of water that contain the bacteria *Legionella*. When water is not properly maintained in man-made settings, the *Legionella* bacteria can grow and cause illness. **Legionnaires' disease is serious and requires medical attention.**



### Common symptoms of Legionnaires' disease:

- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Headache
- Fever
- Muscle Aches

**Legionnaires' disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics.**

### Common sources of *Legionella* bacteria:

- Water used for showering (potable water)
- Hot Tubs
- Decorative Fountains
- Cooling Towers (large air conditioning systems)



### Who is most at risk for Legionnaires' disease?

In most cases healthy people exposed to *Legionella* do not get sick. Being 50 years or older or having certain risk factors can increase your chances of getting sick, including:

- Being a current or former smoker
- Having chronic lung disease, such as emphysema or COPD
- Having a weakened immune system from diseases like cancer, diabetes, or kidney failure
- Taking medication that weakens your immune system

**Questions?** Call your doctor, or the Division of Health at 609-890-3884

**Sources:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
NJ Department of Health (NJDOH): [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)



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