



LenapeTech
Education at Work

LENAPE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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September 4, 2020

Lenape Technical School continuously monitors the health and safety of our buildings. As per our mission, we have conducted water testing for Lead as required by PDE as well as Legionella based upon new guidance. On August 26, 2020 we conducted Legionella Testing throughout the school building. We were just notified late on September 3rd, 2020 that three areas of the school tested positive for Legionella. The affected areas are:

- The Student Male Restroom near the cafeteria
- The Student Female Restroom near the cafeteria
- the Student Restroom in Allied Health

These areas were shut down immediately and will remain closed until results from re-testing are received. **All other areas of the school showed no concern for Legionella. This includes all drinking water sources.**

Legionella comes from water that is static for an extended period of time. The presence of Legionella at Lenape Tech is most likely caused by lack of use due to the prolonged shutdown. We have already completed the prescribed directions for mitigating the situation and have rescheduled testing of our entire water system prior to school reopening. The results take 7 days. We will keep the affected areas above closed until we receive verification that Legionella is no longer present. With students returning on Tuesday September 8th, the three areas in question will remain closed. Additionally, Lenape Technical School will implement the following steps:

- Regularly scheduled high temperature flushing of our entire plumbing system.
- Additional water testing throughout the school year.

Please see the additional information regarding signs and symptoms as well as the link to the CDC Website for additional information on Legionella.

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html>

If you have any other specific concerns, please reach out to me.

Respectfully,

Wesley P. Kuchta
Administrative Director

LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

Legionnaires' (LEE-juh-nares) disease is a very serious type of pneumonia (lung infection) caused by bacteria called *Legionella*. If you develop pneumonia symptoms and may have been exposed to *Legionella*, see a doctor right away. Be sure to mention if you have used a hot tub, spent any nights away from home, or stayed in a hospital in the last two weeks.

Legionnaires' Disease Can Cause Pneumonia Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of Legionnaires' disease can include:

- ▶ Cough
- ▶ Shortness of breath
- ▶ Muscle aches
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Fever

Doctors use chest x-rays or physical exams to check for pneumonia. Your doctor may also order tests on a sample of urine and sputum (phlegm) to see if your lung infection is caused by *Legionella*.

Legionnaires' Disease Is Serious, but Can Be Treated with Antibiotics

Legionnaires' disease is treated with antibiotics (drugs that kill bacteria in the body). Most people who get sick need care in a hospital but make a full recovery. However, about 1 out of 10 people who get Legionnaires' disease will die from the infection.

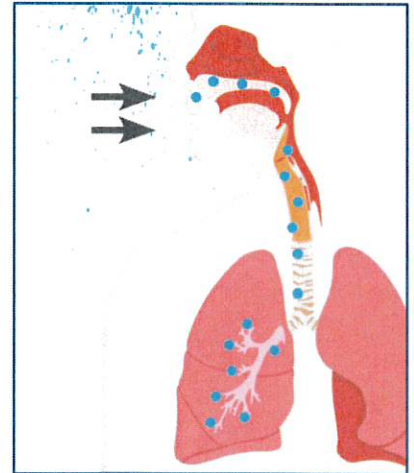
Certain People Are at Increased Risk for Legionnaires' Disease

Most healthy people do not get Legionnaires' disease after being exposed to *Legionella*. Being 50 years or older or having certain risk factors can increase your chances of getting sick. These risk factors include:

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

Legionella Are Usually Spread through Water Droplets in the Air

In nature, *Legionella* live in fresh water and rarely cause illness. In man-made settings, *Legionella* can grow if water is not properly maintained. These man-made water sources become a health problem when small droplets of water that contain the bacteria get into the air and people breathe them in. In rare cases, someone breathes in *Legionella* while they are drinking water and it "goes down the wrong pipe" into the lungs. In general, people do not spread Legionnaires' disease to other people.



Legionnaires' disease, a type of severe pneumonia, is caused by breathing in small droplets of water that contain *Legionella*.

Common Sources of Infection

Outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease are often associated with large or complex water systems, like those found in hospitals, hotels, and cruise ships.

The most likely sources of infection include:

