

Legionnaires' Disease Linked to Rutland County Hotel

To: Vermont Health Care Providers

From: Cort Lohff, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

- Please Distribute Widely -

- Legionnaires' disease (LD) is a type of pneumonia due to infection with the bacterium *Legionella pneumophila*. The bacterium can be found as a contaminant of hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, among other sources. People can get LD when they breathe in a mist or vapor contaminated with this bacterium, though most people exposed will not become ill. Should illness occur, symptoms develop within 2-14 days after exposure, and may include fever, chills, and cough; the elderly, those who smoke, those with chronic lung disease, and those with suppressed immune systems are at greatest risk of getting LD. LD is not transmitted person to person.
- On March 28 the Vermont Department of Health received a report that a person who had been a guest at the Cortina Inn in Rutland County had been diagnosed with LD. This was the third confirmed case of LD over a six month period in persons who spent time at the Cortina Inn, but the first to be strongly linked to this facility.
- On March 29 water samples were taken from several locations within the Cortina Inn. Results confirmed the presence of *Legionella pneumophila*. On April 3 the facility was closed. Steps are now being taken to treat and disinfect the water system and to put in place measures to prevent the growth of *Legionella pneumophila*.
- The Vermont Department of Health is working with the Cortina Inn to notify employees as well as all guests who stayed at the facility since mid-March. We are also working to identify any additional cases of LD that may be linked to this facility. If you have a patient who was diagnosed with pneumonia of unknown etiology in the last 6 months, and that patient spent time at the Cortina Inn, please call us at 802 863-7240 (24/7) to report that case.
- In addition, the Vermont Department of Health will be issuing a press release today. As a result, you may get questions from your patients about this disease or their risk of it. For further information, please visit our website - www.healthvermont.gov/ - or call us at (802) 863-7240 (24/7).