



August 23, 2018

HEALTH ALERT: Legionella

Dear Colleagues,

Recently there has been an increase in the number of Legionella cases in Ottawa, Kent and Muskegon Counties, as well as in Region 6 overall. An increase in cases has also been noted statewide. Although no common source for these infections has been identified, the increase is being closely monitored by state and local public health officials.

If you suspect a possible case of Legionella please obtain the Legionella urinary antigen test, as well as lower respiratory specimens for culture on Legionella specific media to enable the detection of all Legionella serogroups.

The most current update on Legionella, including risk factors, clinical features, transmission, diagnosis, laboratory testing and treatment can be found on the following CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians.htm>

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact me at 616-494-5548.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Heidel, MD, MPH  
Medical Director  
Ottawa County Department of Public Health