



For Immediate Release

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Legionnaires' information

Galveston County and Cities – With reports that the bacterium that causes Legionnaire's disease was found in the water system at a local office building in Galveston the Galveston County Health District provides the following information.

Legionnaires' is a reportable condition and to date there have been no cases of the illness reported to the district. The City of Galveston's municipal water system has tested negative for the bacterium which means at this time there is no increased risk for the general public.

Legionnaires' disease is a form of pneumonia caused by bacteria that is not transmitted from person to person and usually occurs in isolated incidents. Galveston County averages one reported case of the illness annually. Signs of the disease can include a high fever, chills, and a cough. Some people may also suffer from muscle aches and headaches. Symptoms usually begin 2 to 14 days after being exposed to the bacteria. Most people exposed to the bacteria do not become ill.

For additional information visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Legionellosis web site www.cdc.gov/legionella/patient_facts.htm.

The Legionella bacteria are found naturally in the environment, usually in water. The bacteria grow best in warm water, like the kind found in hot tubs, cooling

towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems, or parts of the air-conditioning systems of large buildings. They do not seem to grow in car or window air-conditioners.

Health District officials urge managers of large buildings to follow the advice offered by the CDC to make sure that water in their facilities are safe, particularly after any natural disaster which may have disrupted water service. Safety guidance is available at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/legionnaires.asp.