Message

From: Porter, Andrea [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=76C3B172E6574D44AE941300BD420B94-APORTE03]
Sent: 12/21/2016 2:21:24 PM
To: Lytle, Darren [Lytle.Darren@epa.gov]
CC: Schock, Michael [Schock.Michael@epa.gov]; Deltoral, Miguel [deltoral.miguel@epa.gov]
Subject: article: "County investigates 16th case of Legionnaires' disease this year in Flint area"

Hi Darren,

In case you haven't seen this already.

Article: "County investigates 16th case of Legionnaires' disease this year in Flint area"
Link →
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/12/county_investigates_16th_case.html#incart_river_index_topics

Why is the County recommending bottled water (see highlight below) for this?

Thanks,
Andrea Porter

Environmental Engineer
Ground Water & Drinking Water Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 5 (WG-15J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-4427
Fax: 312-697-2656

County investigates 16th case of Legionnaires' disease this year in Flint area

By Molly Young | myoung7@mlive.com
on December 20, 2016 at 4:15 PM, updated December 21, 2016 at 8:49 AM

GENESEE COUNTY, MI -- Local health officials are investigating another case of Legionnaires' disease.

A release was issued by the Genesee County Health Department Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 20, saying that it was investigating the 16th case of Legionnaires' disease in Genesee County in 2016.

No details were released on the patient or how they contracted the disease.

Concern about Legionnaires' disease was elevated after an outbreak in Genesee County when 12 people died and dozens of others were sickened amid the city's water crisis.

Officials have investigated a possible connection between the outbreak and a change in the city's drinking water source, but no direct connection between the two has been confirmed.

Now, all pneumonia patients in Genesee County are tested for Legionnaire's disease.

It is a respiratory infection caused by Legionella bacteria. The bacteria, which can be treated with antibiotics, can also cause a milder illness called Pontiac Fever.

Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, pneumonia and sometimes diarrhea and abdominal pain. Pontiac Fever has similar symptoms, but does not progress to pneumonia.

Legionella bacteria are commonly found in rivers, lakes and streams. People get infected by breathing in mist that contains the bacteria, or when drinking water with the bacteria that "goes down the wrong pipe."

It can be prevented by proper maintenance and disinfection of water systems, like showers, hot water tanks, cooling towers, whirlpool spas and decorative fountains.

It is generally not contagious, and people who are older, smoke or are former smokers, have a weakened immune system or have underlying or chronic health conditions are most at risk.

Filtering water does not remove Legionella bacteria, so the Genesee County Health Department recommends those most at risk use bottled water.

The last case was reported in November, and the 13th and 14th cases were reported in late October. The typical number of cases reporter per year in Genesee County is between 9 and 13 on the state's budget and reporting calendar -- from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, Genesee County Health Officer Mark Valacak has said.