



***Legionella* Bacteria Testing at Melrose Houses**

An early test found evidence of *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria in the water distribution system at 681 Courtlandt Ave. The Health Department and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) are taking **immediate** steps to keep residents of Melrose Houses healthy.

1. *Now*: Shutting off hot water at 681 Courtlandt Ave. and testing the entire water supply at the Melrose Houses complex.
2. *Next 24 Hours*: Installing special filters in every apartment to reduce risk from *Legionella* bacteria. After filters are installed at 681 Courtlandt Ave., the hot water will be turned back on.
3. *Long-term*: Installing a special permanent system to keep the building's water supply free of *Legionella* bacteria.

It is safe to drink and bathe with the water at Melrose Houses, including at 681 Courtlandt Ave.

More about Legionnaires' Disease

What is Legionnaires' disease?

Legionnaires' disease (or *Legionellosis*) is a type of pneumonia. It is caused by bacteria (*Legionella*) that grow in warm water.

Is the disease contagious?

No. Legionnaires' disease is not spread from person to person. People only get sick by breathing in water vapor containing the bacteria. People who are sick cannot make others sick.

Who is at risk?

Groups at high risk include people who are middle-aged or older—especially cigarette smokers—people with chronic lung disease or weakened immune systems and people who take medicines that weaken their immune systems (immunosuppressive drugs).

What are the symptoms of Legionnaires' disease?

Symptoms are like the flu and can include fever, chills, muscle aches and cough. Some people may also have headaches, fatigue, loss of appetite, confusion or diarrhea.

What should I do if I think I have Legionnaires' disease?

If you have flu-like symptoms, seek medical attention right away, especially if you have a medical condition that affects your breathing, like emphysema, or if you are a smoker. Tell your doctor you are concerned about Legionnaire's disease.

What is the treatment for Legionnaires' disease?

The disease is treated with antibiotics. Most people get better with early treatment, although they may need to be hospitalized. Some people may get very sick or even die from complications of the disease. That's why it is important to get medical help right away if you develop symptoms.