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Two cases of Legionnaires' confirmed at another Wilson facility

By Olivia Neeley Times Staff Writer

Two additional cases of Legionnaires' disease have been confirmed at a second facility in Wilson, state officials announced Saturday.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services identified the two cases at Longleaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Center. State officials said the second confirmed case of the disease is a "retrospective case, no longer symptomatic, discovered during routine testing after the initial discovery and diagnosis," according to information released by the state.

State officials said Longleaf has put internal control measures in place to protect residents, visitors and staff. They are currently not taking any new clients and some visitor restrictions are in place.

The facility is using bottled water for drinking, mouth rinsing and shaving, the state said.

"Facility water has been discontinued for showering and bathing until testing confirms the water is safe or special filtration systems are in place," according to the state.

State health officials and an engineering company were on site Saturday conducting an environmental assessment. Legionnaires' disease can't be spread from person to person.

After one patient was diagnosed at the center, testing was conducted to "determine if there had been previous, unrecognized cases," according to the state.

Officials were able to identify that case as a result of that testing. That patient is no longer symptomatic.

There have now been seven cases of Legionnaires' disease. The other cases are linked to Wilson Pines.



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