



THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

Killington inn closed a second time for bacteria



June 19, 2008

KILLINGTON, Vt. --An inn closed two months ago after being linked to Legionnaires' disease has been ordered to close again after follow-up tests detected the bacteria, the state Health Department said Thursday.

The Cortina Inn was closed for a second time Wednesday after lab tests on one of six water samples taken as part of required follow-up testing came back "presumptively positive" for the presence of Legionella pneumophila, according to Dr. Donald Swartz, the Health Department's medical director.

The inn closed voluntarily in April after confirmation of the bacteria in its water system and three confirmed cases of the disease linked to it.

There have been no new cases of the disease since then.

"The Cortina Inn has been working to implement the actions required by the Health Department to assure the safety of their guests and employees," said Swartz. "Unfortunately, this bacteria tends to be very difficult to eliminate from a hard-water system that has mineral buildup. The Inn must now redouble their efforts to rid their plumbing of this bacteria and test clean before they can re-open."

Cortina officials couldn't be reached for comment Thursday. The inn's telephones rang unanswered.

Legionnaires' disease takes its name from a 1976 outbreak at a Philadelphia hotel that killed 34 people. The bacterium believed responsible is found in soil and grows in water, such as in air conditioning ducts, storage tanks and rivers.

People can develop the disease by breathing contaminated aerosolized water from faucets, showers and whirlpool spas, although most exposed to the bacteria won't get it.

When directly exposed, those most at risk are the elderly, smokers and people with chronic lung disease or compromised immune systems. ■

© [Copyright](#) 2008 The New York Times Company