

09/18/2011 10:30 AM

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Warns Against Its Tap Water After Patient Contracts Legionnaire's Disease

By: NY1 News

Patients and staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center are being told to avoid the tap water after one patient tested positive for Legionnaire's disease.

Hospital representatives said the test results were preliminary and that no other patients have tested positive.

Legionnaire's is a type of pneumonia contracted when people breathe in water vapor or mist that's been contaminated with the disease.

Patients have been told not to shower or use the sinks or water fountains.

Until the situation is resolved, the hospital is providing bottled water for drinking and pre-moistened towelettes for bathing.

"An administrative gentleman came around and put notes on bathroom doors and just ensuring that we remember not to use the sink," said a patient.

"I love this hospital, but I'm very concerned about my mother. My mother has one kidney, and the one kidney she has left has cancer on it," said one woman.

Hospital representatives said tests conducted on other patients and the water supply came back negative for Legionnaires.

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Legionnaire's bacteria found in NYC hospital water

Sept. 19, 2011, 8:06 a.m. EDT
The Wall Street Journal

NEW YORK (AP) — Patients and staff at New York City's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center are drinking bottled water after traces of the bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease were found in the tap water.

The director of the hospital's infection control tells The Wall Street Journal (<http://on.wsj.com/ovBrMN>) that the risk of developing Legionnaires' disease is low.

The director, Dr. Kent Sepkowitz, said the hospital stopped water usage as a precaution.

He said the bacteria results came Friday, one day after a patient who was in the hospital for other ailments was diagnosed with Legionnaire's.

Sepkowitz said the hospital was working with city and state health officials to determine whether the patient contracted the disease before or after arriving at Sloan-Kettering.

He said the patient is responding well to antibiotic treatment for the disease.

Information from: The Wall Street Journal, <http://www.wsj.com>:



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