

Confirmed Case of Legionnaires' Disease in Central Texas

(KCEN) -- A confirmed case of Legionnaires' disease at the Waco VA Medical Center.

The case was identified by Central Texas Veterans Health Care System staff and confirmed on October 22.

The patient was at the Waco VA Medical Center when he began showing signs of pneumonia.

The patient was then transported to the VA Medical Center in Temple for treatment, at which time, positive test results confirmed the patient had Legionnaires'.

Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia caused by a bacterium known as Legionella.

It is not spread from person-to-person contact.

Instead, most people get Legionnaires' disease from inhaling the bacteria through water droplets.

The patient has been treated and actually responded well to the antibiotic treatment and other clinical care. Debbie Meyer with Temple VA Medical Center says steps are being taken to prevent anymore patients from contracting the disease.

"On Monday the 28th, we're going to start the remediation process in the building where the patient was on the Waco campus where we identified the Legionella bacteria," Meyer says.

The remediation process is a hyperchlorination of the water system in the building at the Waco VA where the patient was when they contracted Legionnaires'.

Meyer says point of use filters are also being installed on all of the faucets and showerheads.

Meyer also says the reason the remediation process will not begin until Monday is because they had to get a contractor to come in and hook up to the water system in order to disinfect and cleanse the system.