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## 2 patients at RI Hospital diagnosed with Legionella

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By Olivia Fecteau, NBC 10 News [CONNECT](#)

Rhode Island Hospital told NBC 10 Tuesday that two patients have been diagnosed with Legionella.

That's the bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease, a rare type of pneumonia.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Legionella is found naturally in the environment mainly in warm water and it's not transmitted from person-to-person.

In a statement, the hospital said, quote:

"We are investigating the source of the Legionella and are taking precautionary measures, such as using bottled water for drinking instead of tap water for hospitalized patients in potentially affected areas. Additionally, the hospital will implement a comprehensive water treatment plan that will include "superheating and flushing" the water supply in the potentially affected building."

NBC 10 reached out to the Rhode Island Department of Health about THESE cases.

We were told: the department is aware of the cases...and is working with Rhode Island Hospital to monitor the investigation and response.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration says there are 25-thousand reported cases of Legionnaire's disease each year in the U-S.

Of those -- about FOUR-thousand are fatal.

It mostly affects people with compromised immune systems.

We've seen cases of this before in Rhode Island: in August 2013 at Kent Hospital in Warwick and in January 2014 at Miriam Hospital.

In the Kent Hospital case, a hospital spokesperson told us bacteria were found in some of the hospital's ice machines.



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