

Woman dies from Legionnaires' disease in Parma

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Posted by Jonathan Jankowski, Digital Content Producer



*6 confirmed cases of legionella
within St. Columbkille Parish
community. File photo*

PARMA, OH (WOIO) - Cleveland 19's Lacey Crisp is reporting a woman has died from Legionnaires' disease in Parma.

The victim's son said she was a parishioner at the same church where there are six confirmed cases of legionella.

Earlier today [Cuyahoga County Board of Health](#) said six parishioners of [St. Columbkille Parish](#) in Parma have been diagnosed with legionella.

Inspectors from the Board of Health have visited the church multiple times this week and have not found evidence that the parish is the cause of the cases, according to Cuyahoga County Board of Health Communications Officer Keith Brennan.

Brennan says the six cases appear to be incidental with no direct connection.

In a statement released by the Diocese the air conditioning units in the church will not be in use until further environmental test results can be obtained by the Board of Health.

The [Ohio Department of Health](#) describes [legionella](#) as a type of bacteria found naturally in the [environment](#), usually in water and do not seem to grow in window air conditioners.

Legionella is not spread from person-to-person and most people exposed do not become ill, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

However, the Ohio Department of Health says breathing in Legionella bacteria can cause Legionnaire's disease, a severe form of pneumonia.

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<http://www.cleveland19.com/story/38702474/woman-dies-from-legionnaires-disease-in-parma>