
Two senior center residents contract Legionnaires' disease from tap water

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TAYLORSVILLE, Utah (ABC4 News) – The [Salt Lake County Health Department](#) has asked staff members at a senior living center in Taylorsville to stop using tap water after two residents contacted Legionnaires' disease.

Legionnaires' disease is caused by a bacterium known as legionella. Health officials say most people who are exposed to Legionella do not get sick, however, people who are age 50 or older, current or former smokers or people with weak immune systems are at an increased risk of catching legionella.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia. It is contracted when people breathe in mist or accidentally swallow water containing Legionella.

Staff members at Legacy House provided bottled water for drinking, washing, and bathing with Legionella filters on showers.

Water sampling has been done and officials report that seven out of nine water samples did not detect legionella.

The Salt Lake County Board discussed the outbreak in a meeting Thursday. The contamination was originally reported throughout the facility.

Officials in Thursday's meeting reported that two vacant rooms remain contaminated and the rest of the center will go back to normal.

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