

# Volusia Legionnaires' disease cases confirmed

Publication Date: [02/05/06](#)

DAYTONA BEACH (AP) -- Two cases of Legionnaires' disease were confirmed in Volusia County last month, a county health official said Saturday. One of the people died, but investigators haven't determined that the bacterial illness caused the death.

An investigation was under way to determine whether there was a common source for the illness, said Dr. Thomas Coleman, director of the Volusia County Health Department. He said he wouldn't speculate on the cause of death.

But there was no evidence that the disease had spread because no new cases have been reported in more than two weeks, longer than its maximum incubation period of two to 14 days, he added.

A hotel in the county, The Seagarden Inn, decided to temporarily shut down as a precaution and relocated its guests after two guests said they had contracted the disease, said Doug Kosarek, a spokesman for Ocean Waters, the Daytona Beach company that owns the resort.

Coleman wouldn't discuss whether the confirmed cases were guests at the hotel, citing privacy law.

Legionnaires' disease, named that way after a 1976 outbreak of the disease at an American Legion convention in Philadelphia, is caused by bacteria called legionella.

People can become infected by breathing in mist or vapor contaminated with the bacteria. It cannot spread from person to person, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The bacteria thrive in warm water, such as in hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems, or parts of the air conditioning systems of large buildings.

Symptoms include a high fever, chills, cough, muscle aches and headaches, which usually develop two to 14 days after exposure. Most cases are successfully treated with antibiotics and healthy people usually recover, the CDC said.

It can cause death in up to 30 percent of its cases, however, and between 8,000 and 10,000 people each year are hospitalized with the disease in the United States, the CDC said.

Click here to return to story:

[http://staugustine.com/stories/020506/sta\\_3619662.shtml](http://staugustine.com/stories/020506/sta_3619662.shtml)

© The St. Augustine Record