

# Local health unit investigating 15 cases of Legionnaires' disease

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A large grouping of Gram-negative *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria are shown in this colorized 8000X electron micrograph image from 2009. (AP / Janice Haney Carr)

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Local health officials are dealing 15 cases of Legionnaires' disease, a serious form of pneumonia that includes fever, coughing, chest pain, headache and other symptoms.

Six people have been hospitalized with the ailment in London.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit says the cases are linked to the south-central area of London.

The bacteria thrive in moist conditions and the health unit is investigating to identify the source.

Dr. Chris Mackie, the unit's medical officer of health, says a normal year produces about six cases of the Legionnaires' disease.

Mackie says most of the local people infected have a pre-existing illness. He says the best way for people to combat the disease is to remain healthy.

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