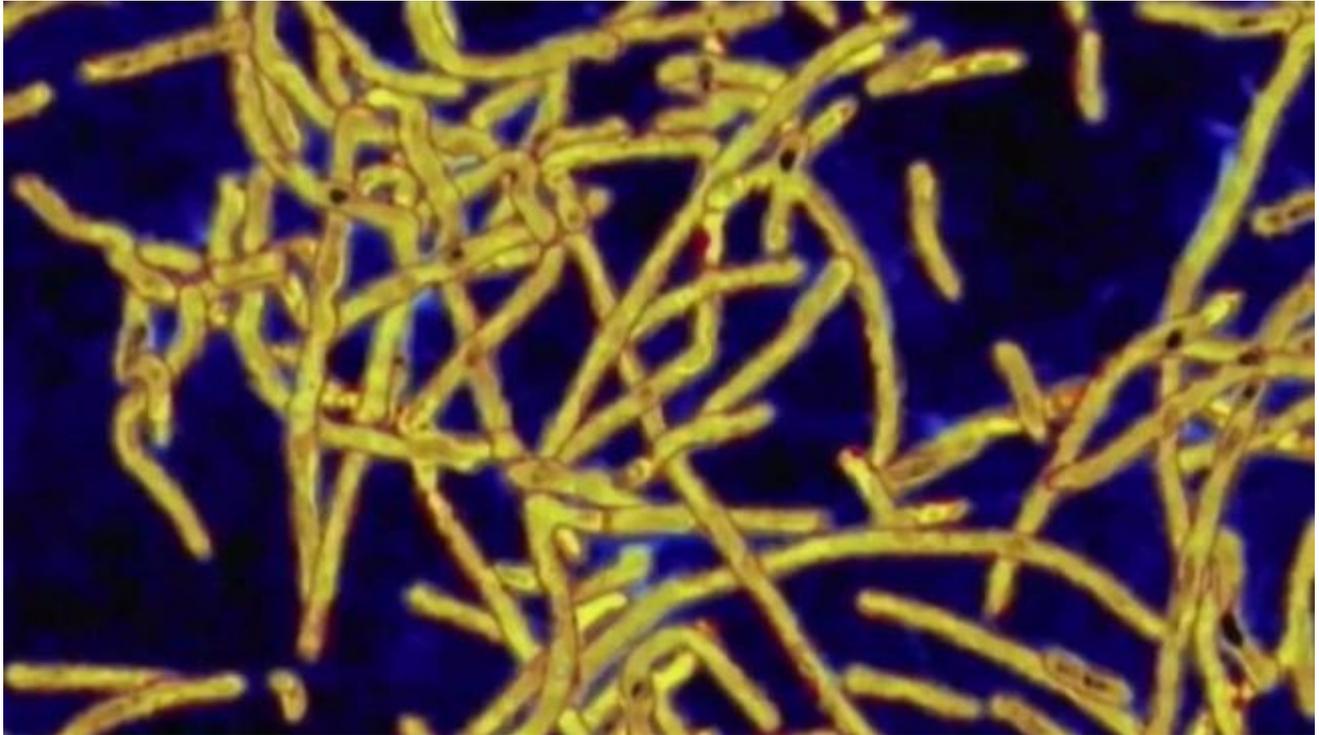


2 New Legionnaires' Cases Confirmed in Batavia, Bringing Total to 14

5 nbcchicago.com/news/local/2-new-Legionnaires-cases-confirmed-in-Batavia-bringing-total-to-14-

569341041.html
By Patrick Fazio



An outbreak of 14 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease in Batavia has health officials worried the potentially deadly lung infection is spreading, officials said Saturday.

The director of the Illinois Department of Public Health said she is concerned because the outbreak of 12 cases in Covenant Assisted Living in Batavia has spread to two people in the nearby community.

Legionnaires' disease is not transmitted person-to-person, but people can contract it by breathing in small droplets of water containing Legionella bacteria.

IDPH said the facility in Batavia plans to clean its water systems including cooling towers that release water droplets into the air to people up to a mile or two away.

8 Legionnaires' Cases Reported at Batavia Retirement Home

"They may still be infected and potentially show symptoms 10-14 days after exposure. So we're bracing ourselves knowing that there may be some additional cases even though some of the corrective measures have been taken," said Dr. Ngozi Ezike, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Legionnaires' disease usually begins with a high fever, chills, muscle aches, cough and shortness of breath, especially in smokers and people over the age of 50.

In 2018, Illinois reported 510 cases of Legionnaires' disease statewide with 285 confirmed to date in 2019.

IDPH told NBC 5 that of those cases, 22 were fatal in 2019 and 44 in 2018.

Additional information about Legionnaires' disease can be found on the IDPH [website](#) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](#).

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12 cases of Legionnaires' now reported at Batavia retirement home

★ chicago.suntimes.com/2019/9/11/20861697/batavia-legionnaires-covenant-living-holmstad

Emmanuel Camarillo

September 11,
2019

Eight new cases have been confirmed at Covenant Living at the Holmstad this week since the first four cases were initially reported in August.

By [Emmanuel Camarillo@mannycam](mailto:Emmanuel.Camarillo@mannycam) Sep 11, 2019, 6:56pm CDT



Twelve cases of Legionnaires' disease have been reported since August at the Covenant Living at the Holmstad retirement facility at 700 W. Fabyan Parkway in Batavia.

Four more cases of Legionnaires' disease have been reported at a retirement home in west suburban Batavia, bringing the total to 12 confirmed cases.

The new cases were confirmed Wednesday at Covenant Living at the Holmstad and reported to both Kane County and the Illinois Department of Public Health, according to Amanda Gosnell, Executive Director of Covenant Living.

“As we continue to partner with IDPH in the investigation of the campus to search for any other risk points, we are pursuing all possible interventions to protect resident and employee safety and well-being,” Gosnell said.

The first four cases of Legionnaires’ at Covenant Living, 700 W. Fabyan Pkwy., were announced Aug. 31 by the Kane County Health Department. On Sept. 9, the Health Department announced four more cases, bringing the total to eight.

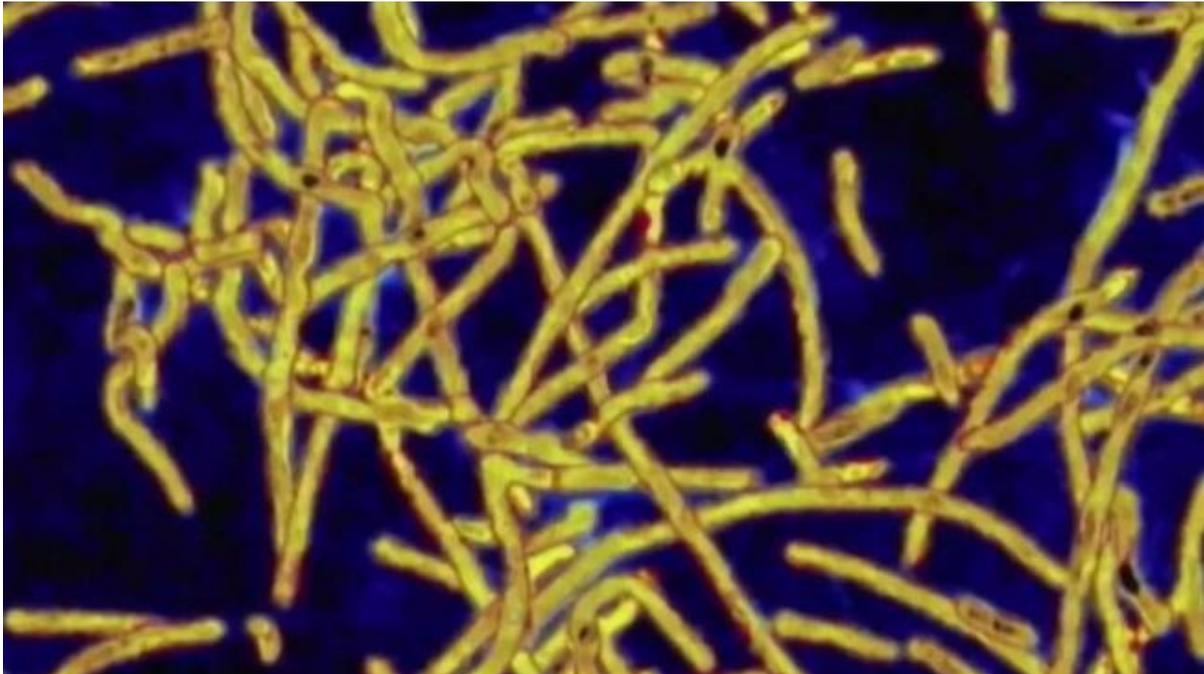
A spokesperson for the Kane County Health Department could not be reached Wednesday for comment on the new cases.

“We await more thorough results from the state testing and pray that a source can, if at all, be identified, either on or off our campus,” Gosnell said.

Legionella bacteria are transmitted through water droplets in the air and can cause serious lung infections and death. Illinois saw 512 reported cases of Legionnaires’ disease statewide in 2018, with 219 confirmed so far this year, the Health Department said.

Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak Reported at Batavia Retirement Home

 [nbcchicago.com/news/local/legionnaires-disease-outbreak-batavia-retirement-home-559195641.html](https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/legionnaires-disease-outbreak-batavia-retirement-home-559195641.html)



Health officials in Kane County are investigating four cases of Legionnaires' disease linked to a Batavia retirement home, the Kane County Health Department said.

The retirement home, Covenant Living at the Holmstad, is notifying residents and the residents' identified contact, according to a news release.

Public health officials have tested for Legionella bacteria and are working to identify potential sources, officials said.

The bacteria from Legionnaires' disease are transmitted through drops of water and can cause serious lung infections and possibly death. The bacteria mixes with the air in showers or fountains, and can cause illness when inhaled.

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Health officials haven't provided information on the conditions of the residents who have been affected.

The lung infection is fatal in approximately one of every 10 cases, according to CDC research.

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