

Media Release

Update: Legionnaires' outbreak in Potts Point

Thursday, 31 July 2025

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District is continuing to investigate the source of an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Potts Point.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and the City of Sydney are continuing to inspect and test all potential contaminated water sources in the areas visited by people recently diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease in Potts Point.

Since late May, seven Potts Point residents have been diagnosed and hospitalised with Legionnaires' disease.

This includes a man in his eighties, who became unwell in late June, and has sadly died from the infection. NSW Health expresses its sincere condolences to their loved ones.

Five of the other patients have returned home and one is recovering in hospital.

None of the patients are known to each other, however they may have been exposed to a common source of infection in the area.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit Director Dr Vicky Sheppeard said that while no *Legionella* bacteria have been found so far, investigations are continuing.

"The District has requested building owners disinfect their cooling towers on two occasions since the investigation began in June," Dr Sheppeard said.

"Legionnaires' disease is caused by infection with *Legionella* bacteria. Outbreaks sometimes occur when environmental sources such as cooling towers atop large buildings become contaminated with bacteria. Legionnaires' disease is not spread from person to person.

"Symptoms can develop up to 10 days after exposure and include fever, chills, a cough and shortness of breath and may lead to severe pneumonia.

"People who have recently been in Potts Point and develop these symptoms should see their GP or go to a hospital emergency department."

Building owners should ensure that their cooling towers are operated and maintained in compliance with the NSW Public Health Regulation 2022.

If unwell, please seek medical advice. For non-life-threatening health concerns call healthdirect on 1800 022 222 (this service is free and available 24 hours a day).

For updates on this outbreak please visit the Public Health Unit website:

<https://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services-clinics/directory/public-health/public-health-hot-topics-and-alerts>

For information on management of water cooling systems contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/legionellacontrol/Pages/default.aspx>.

For more information on Legionnaires' disease visit: [Legionnaires' disease - frequently asked questions](#)

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