

Media Release

Legionnaires' outbreak in the Potts Point area

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

NSW Health is reminding people who have been in the Potts Point area in the past 2 weeks to continue to be vigilant for symptoms of Legionnaires' disease, which include fever, chills, a cough and shortness of breath.

Following an alert last week two additional Potts Point residents have been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease, bringing the total to five cases since mid-May. The five residents are not known to each other. Four of the residents have been hospitalised and the fifth resident is being managed by their GP.

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

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit Director Dr Vicky Sheppeard said the Public Health Unit continues to work with the City of Sydney to identify the source of the infections.

"People can be exposed to the bacteria if contaminated water particles from a cooling system are emitted into the air and breathed in," Dr Sheppeard said.

"Legionnaires' disease can develop up to 10 days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, chills, a cough and shortness of breath and may lead to severe chest infections such as pneumonia.

"People who develop this disease are diagnosed by a urine or sputum test and chest X-ray and usually require antibiotic treatment in hospital. Those most at risk are elderly people, people with underlying lung or other serious health conditions, and people who smoke."

Last week NSW Health and City of Sydney environmental health officers inspected and sampled all cooling towers and water fountains within 500 metres of the residents' homes and all managers of cooling water systems in the broad investigation area have been asked to disinfect their systems. The bacteria was not found in any of the samples.

Public Health Unit and City of Sydney staff will return to the area today to search for unregistered cooling water systems and other potential sources of *Legionella*.

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 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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