



Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**

For Health Care Professionals



Legionella (Legionellosis) – Increased Early Season Activity

Legionellosis is caused by *Legionella* bacteria that is naturally present in water sources and can multiply in man-made water systems like cooling towers, hot tubs, humidifiers, and decorative fountains. Infection occurs when small, aerosolized droplets containing the bacteria are inhaled. Recently, clusters of Legionellosis have been identified across Ontario, suggesting an early start to the Legionella season.

Actions Requested

Please consider Legionellosis when investigating lower respiratory tract symptoms especially with a history of exposure to aerosolized water sources. Legionellosis may present two different ways:

- **Legionnaires' Disease** – Symptoms include anorexia, malaise, myalgia, headache, productive cough, temperature > 39 degrees Celsius, pneumonia, confusion, chills, nausea, diarrhea; or
- **Pontiac Fever** – Milder form of the illness without pneumonia. Symptoms include anorexia, malaise, myalgia, headache, productive cough, and temperature > 37.5 degrees Celsius.

Testing

Please collect both urine and lower respiratory specimen(s):

- Urine Antigen Test – tests for *L. pneumophila* Serogroup 1
- PCR and culture (on lower respiratory symptoms) – tests for additional species and serogroups

Reporting

Legionellosis is an immediately reportable disease in Ontario. Continue to report any cases of legionellosis immediately to the Durham Region Health Department.

- Phone: 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 ext.1813
- After Hours Phone: 905-576-9991 or 1-800-372-1104

Additional Information

Public Health Ontario - [Legionellosis Testing and Requisition Forms](#)

May 20, 2026

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

