



*Legionella* bacteria are commonly found in the environment (rivers, lakes, streams). It is a waterborne disease, usually spread by man-made water supplies that aerosolize water, such as showers, hot water tanks, cooling towers, whirlpool spas, and decorative fountains. People can get Legionnaires' disease when they breathe in a mist containing the bacteria. People may also be exposed to *Legionella* bacteria from water that "goes down the wrong pipe" (aspiration). In general, the bacteria are not spread from one person to another. Filtering water does not remove *Legionella* bacteria. People who are at most risk of developing Legionnaires' disease are those who are older, smokers/former smokers, have a weakened immune system, and those who have other underlying or chronic health conditions. For those who are at an increased risk that live in the City of Flint, GCHD suggests the continued use of bottled water.

Proper maintenance and disinfection of building water systems, hot water tanks, cooling towers, whirlpool spas, and decorative fountains are the most effective measures to prevent outbreaks.

GCHD has worked closely with the local medical centers to provide information about *Legionella* and clinical guidance about Legionnaires' disease. A Legionnaires' disease fact sheet is posted on the GCHD website at [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us). GCHD continues to conduct surveillance for Legionnaires' disease cases.

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