



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Chemung County Health
Department

Chemung County Health Department Legionnaires' Disease

What is it and who gets it?

- Legionnaires' Disease, or Legionellosis, is a form of pneumonia caused by a type of bacteria called *Legionella*.
- It's contracted by breathing in tiny contaminated water droplets, NOT by drinking water or being in contact with someone with the disease.
- While anybody who is exposed to the bacteria can become infected, most people who come into contact with *Legionella* DO NOT become ill.
- People who most often get the disease are those with chronic lung disease, a weakened immune system, cancer, or those who smoke tobacco.



What are the symptoms?

- Early signs: flu-like symptoms with muscle aches, headache, fatigue, or a dry cough.
- As the infection progresses, you might experience fever, chills, diarrhea, or shortness of breath.

What should I do?

- There is no need to change your daily activities to avoid *Legionella*.
- If you experience any of the symptoms listed above or feel ill, seek medical attention

Get the facts!

For reliable sources of information, visit:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/legionella

New York State Department of Health

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/legionellosis