

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

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LEGIONELLA UPDATE

July 22, 2018

We are presently working together with Saint Columbkille Parish in Parma in response to six confirmed cases of Legionella within the church's community. Environmental testing will be conducted on the premises of the church and results may take up to 10 days to be returned.

As a preventive measure, we recommended that the air conditioning units in the church be turned off until more information could be gathered and reviewed. Parishioners were notified of our recommendation in a statement issued by church officials.

We appreciate the community's patience as our investigation continues.

Please follow this link to the Center for Disease Control's Legionella page to learn more:

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/index.html>

LEGIONELLA UPDATE

July 23, 2018

We have been able to confirm that a 93 year-old female from Parma had been diagnosed with Legionnaire's Disease earlier this summer and passed away on July 5, 2018. This case is one of several that we are currently investigating as part of a possible Legionella cluster.

We continue to work cooperatively with officials at Saint Columbkille, conducting environmental sampling and interviewing members of the church community. A reminder that the results of the environmental sampling may take up to ten business days to be known.

Please follow this link to the Center for Disease Control's Legionella page to learn more:

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/index.html>

July 23, 2018
Afternoon update

Per our earlier update and interviews today, we have cast a wide net to identify potential additional cases in our Legionella investigation. As a result of widening our search, we now have identified four additional confirmed cases of Legionella that attended services at the Saint Columbkille Parish. This brings our current total case count to 11. Among these cases, there has been one fatality.

The age range for the 11 confirmed cases is from 74-93 years of age. The onset date of illness among cases is early June to mid-July of this year.

We remind the public of the risk factors associated with Legionella as listed by the Centers for Disease Control:

- Over 50 years old
- Former or current smoker
- Chronic lung disease, such as emphysema or COPD
- Immune system disorders due to disease or medication
- Other illness such as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure

We are continuing to reach out to those individual cases in order to collect as much relevant information as possible. Their cooperation, as well as that of church officials and the parish community, is greatly appreciated.

Updates will be provided as we learn more through our investigation.
