

19-ID-04**Committee:** Infectious Disease**Title:** Revision to the Case Definition for National Legionellosis Surveillance

Check this box if this position statement is an update to an existing standardized surveillance case definition and include the most recent position statement number here: **09-ID-45**.

Synopsis: This position statement updates the case definition for legionellosis (previous position statement 09-ID-45) through the addition of new clinical criteria (e.g. extrapulmonary legionellosis), updated laboratory criteria update, and the addition of probable case classification for cases with an epidemiologic linkage.

I. Statement of the Problem

Legionellosis is a nationally notifiable disease in which cases are classified as “confirmed” or “suspect” based on the presence of clinically compatible symptoms and diagnostic testing. Currently, positive results from nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) classify a case as “suspect.” Suspect cases are not included in the national total and are inconsistently reported to public health departments. Increased experience with diagnostic testing, along with increased confidence in the diagnostic performance of NAAT and its more prevalent utilization, have led to a need to update the laboratory criteria for the diagnosis of legionellosis.

Current case definition language provides limited guidance to assist public health jurisdictions in determining if cases meet clinical criteria. Further, the clinical criteria do not capture extrapulmonary legionellosis, a rare, but important, clinical entity. Last, patients with an epidemiologic linkage and clinically compatible symptoms for Legionnaires’ disease and Pontiac fever are currently not captured in the position statement.

In addition, this position statement includes three appendices relating to incubation period, considerations for healthcare-associated cases, and considerations for travel-associated cases. These appendices were developed as tools for health department use, but they are not binding and are independent from the case definition and case classifications.

II. Background and Justification

Presently the majority (>95%) of legionellosis cases are diagnosed via urinary antigen testing (UAT), which is specific for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 (Lp1) and may not detect other *L. pneumophila* serogroups or *Legionella* species. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that a culture on lower respiratory secretions be performed in concert to allow for detection of non-Lp1 *Legionella*. However, culture for *Legionella* is a lengthy process, requires specialized media, has decreased sensitivity when collected after antibiotic treatment has begun, and must be performed by laboratorians trained in the technique. As a supplement to culture, NAAT can also detect non-Lp1 *Legionella*, can be performed in far less time by most laboratorians, does not require specialized reagents, and detects genetic material rather than a viable organism and thus is less affected by antibiotic use.

Since the legionellosis case definition was last revised in 2009, confidence in the diagnostic performance of NAAT has increased, and its use has become more widespread. In recent studies, NAAT has shown increased sensitivity and comparable specificity relative to culture when performed on lower respiratory tract specimens. More cases were detected when NAAT was performed in addition to UAT or culture alone. Sensitivity ranged from 92–97.4%, and specificity ranged from 98.6–99.9%. For these reasons, this proposal changes NAAT-positive cases from the suspect to the confirmed category¹⁻⁵.

Furthermore, in this proposal we update and clarify the clinical criteria for legionellosis, including providing cases ascertainment guidance regarding extrapulmonary legionellosis presentations and providing more detail regarding how to differentiate Pontiac fever from Legionnaires' disease. This position statement establishes criteria for the classification of extrapulmonary legionellosis cases which has a clinically and epidemiologically distinct illness presentation that is notifiable to CDC but is not captured in the current CSTE position statement.

This proposal additionally seeks to enable capture of persons with clinically compatible illness and epidemiologic linkage for whom laboratory evidence is not available. Defining epidemiologic linkage and creation of probable Legionnaires' disease and probable Pontiac fever supports surveillance for those persons during cluster and outbreak investigations.

III. Statement of the desired action(s) to be taken

CSTE recommends the following actions:

1. Implement a standardized surveillance case definition for legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis).
 - A. Utilize standard sources (e.g., reporting*) for case ascertainment for legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis). Surveillance for legionellosis should use the recommended sources of data to the extent of coverage presented in Section V.
 - B. Utilize standardized criteria for case ascertainment for Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis presented in Section VI and Table VI in Technical Supplement.
 - C. Utilize standardized criteria for case classification for legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis) presented in Sections VII and Table VII in Technical Supplement.
2. Utilize standardized criteria for case ascertainment and classification (based on Sections VI and VII and Technical Supplement of accompanying position statement) for **legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis)** and retain legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis) to the *Nationally Notifiable Condition List*.
 - Immediately notifiable, extremely urgent (within 4 hours)
 - Immediately notifiable, urgent (within 24 hours)
 - Routinely notifiable
 - No longer notifiable
3. CSTE recommends that all States and Territories enact laws (statute or rule/regulation as appropriate) to make this disease or condition reportable in their jurisdiction. Jurisdictions (e.g. States and Territories) conducting surveillance (according to these methods) should submit case notifications** to CDC.
4. Expectations for Message Mapping Guide (MMG) development for a newly notifiable condition: the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is transitioning to HL7-based messages for case notifications; the specifications for these messages are presented in MMGs. When CSTE recommends a new condition be made nationally notifiable, CDC must obtain Office of Management and Budget Paperwork Reduction Act (OMB PRA) approval prior to accepting case notifications for the new condition. Under anticipated timelines, notification using the Generic V2 MMG would support transmission of the basic demographic and epidemiologic information common to all cases and could

begin with the new *MMWR* year following the CSTE annual conference. Input from CDC programs and CSTE would prioritize development of a disease-specific MMG for the new condition among other conditions waiting for MMGs. CDC's MMG will include variables to distinguish the three clinically distinct syndromes of legionellosis (Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis).

- CDC should publish data on legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis) as appropriate (see Section IX for additional information).

NNC data sharing/release and print criteria

CSTE recommends the following case statuses be included in the CDC Print Criteria:

- Confirmed
- Probable
- Suspect
- Unknown

- CSTE recommends that all jurisdictions (e.g. States, Localities, or Territories) with legal authority to conduct public health surveillance follow the recommended methods outlined in this recommendation and in the accompanying standardized surveillance position statement.

* Reporting: process of a healthcare provider or other entity submitting a report (case information) of a condition under public health surveillance TO local, state, or territorial public health. Note: notification is addressed in a Nationally Notifiable Conditions Recommendation Statement and is the process of a local, state, or territorial public health authority submitting a report (case information) of a condition on the *Nationally Notifiable Conditions List* TO CDC

**Notification: process of a local or state public health authority submitting a report (case information) of a condition on the *Nationally Notifiable Conditions List* to CDC.

IV. Goals of Surveillance

Legionellosis is an important public health problem. It is necessary for individuals with suspected illness to be reported to public health so that outbreaks of illness may be identified, and common sources remediated to prevent ongoing exposure and illness.

V. Methods for Surveillance:

Surveillance for legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis) should use the recommended sources of data and the extent of coverage listed in Table V.

Surveillance should be conducted using routine sources of data for legionellosis including clinician reporting, laboratory reporting, reporting by other health care institutions (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient settings, etc.), death certificate cause of death information, and hospital/electronic medical records.

Table V. Recommended sources of data and extent of coverage for ascertainment of cases of legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis).

Source of data for case ascertainment	Coverage	
	Population-wide	Sentinel sites
Clinician reporting	X	

Laboratory reporting	X	
Reporting by other entities (e.g., hospitals, long-term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient settings, etc.)	X	
Death certificates	X	
Hospital discharge or outpatient records	X	
Data from electronic medical records	X	

2019 Template

VI. Criteria for case ascertainment

A. Narrative: A description of suggested criteria for case ascertainment of a specific condition.

Standard reporting refers to the process of healthcare providers or institutions (e.g., clinicians, clinical laboratories, hospitals) submitting basic laboratory or clinical information to governmental public health agencies about potential cases of illness that meet certain reporting requirements or criteria. Legionellosis infections meeting the surveillance case definition may also be ascertained by the secondary analysis of administrative health data or clinical data. The purpose of this section is to provide those criteria that should help to determine whether a specific illness should be reported to public health authorities.

A1. Clinical Criteria for Reporting

No clinical criteria alone are sufficient to generate a report to public health authorities.

A2. Laboratory Criteria for Reporting

Report any person with any of the following laboratory findings/results to public health authorities:

Legionnaires' disease (LD):

- Isolation of any *Legionella* organism from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid
- Detection of any *Legionella* species from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by a validated nucleic acid amplification test
- Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen in urine using validated reagents
- Fourfold or greater rise in specific serum antibody titer to *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 using validated reagents
- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to specific species or serogroups of *Legionella* other than *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 (e.g., *L. micdadei*, *L. pneumophila* serogroup 6)
- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to multiple species of *Legionella* using pooled antigens
- Detection of specific *Legionella* antigen or staining of the organism in lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents

Pontiac fever (PF):

- Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen in urine using validated reagents
- Fourfold or greater rise in specific serum antibody titer to *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 using validated reagents
- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to specific species or serogroups of *Legionella* other than *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 (e.g., *L. micdadei*, *L. pneumophila* serogroup 6)

- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to multiple species of *Legionella* using pooled antigens

Extrapulmonary legionellosis (XPL):

- Isolation of any *Legionella* organism from any extrapulmonary site
- Detection of any *Legionella* species from any extrapulmonary site by a validated nucleic acid amplification test
- Detection of specific *Legionella* antigen or staining of the organism from any extrapulmonary site by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents

A3. Epidemiologic Linkage Criteria for Reporting

None required.

A4. Vital Records Criteria for Reporting

1. Report any person whose death certificate lists Legionnaires' disease, legionellosis, extrapulmonary legionellosis, or Pontiac fever anywhere on the death certificate.

A5. Other Criteria for Reporting

1. Report any person whose healthcare/medical record contains a diagnosis Legionnaires' disease, legionellosis, extrapulmonary legionellosis, or Pontiac fever.

B. Disease-specific data elements to be included in the initial report

Clinical – Symptoms consistent with Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, or extrapulmonary disease.

Exposures - Within the two weeks (14 days) prior to illness onset, the following data elements should be included in the initial report when known:

- a) Travel or overnight stay somewhere other than usual residence — if yes, location and dates of travel
- b) Visiting or working in any healthcare facility — if yes, location and dates
- c) Any water exposures (e.g. hot tubs, respiratory therapy equipment, or other sources of aerosolized water) — if yes, location and dates

VII. Case Definition for Case Classification**A. Narrative: Description of criteria to determine how a case should be classified.****A1. Clinical Criteria**

Legionellosis is associated with three clinically and epidemiologically distinct illnesses: Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, or extrapulmonary legionellosis.

Legionnaires' disease (LD): LD presents as pneumonia, diagnosed clinically and/or radiographically.

Evidence of clinically compatible disease can be determined several ways: a) a clinical or radiographic diagnosis of pneumonia in the medical record OR b) if “pneumonia” is not recorded explicitly, a description of clinical symptoms that are consistent with a diagnosis of pneumonia¹.

Pontiac fever (PF): PF is a milder illness. While symptoms of PF² could appear similar to those described for LD, there are distinguishing clinical features. PF does not present as pneumonia. It is less severe than LD, rarely requiring hospitalization. PF is self-limited, meaning it resolves without antibiotic treatment.

Extrapulmonary legionellosis (XPL): *Legionella* can cause disease at sites outside the lungs (for example, associated with endocarditis, wound infection, joint infection, graft infection). A diagnosis of extrapulmonary legionellosis is made when there is clinical evidence of disease at an extrapulmonary site and diagnostic testing indicates evidence of *Legionella* at that site.

A2. Laboratory Criteria

Confirmatory laboratory evidence:

- Isolation of any *Legionella* organism from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid, or extrapulmonary site
- Detection of any *Legionella* species from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid, or extrapulmonary site by a validated nucleic acid amplification test
- Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigen in urine using validated reagents
- Fourfold or greater rise in specific serum antibody titer to *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 using validated reagents

Presumptive laboratory evidence:

None required for case classification

Supportive laboratory evidence:

- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to specific species or serogroups of *Legionella* other than *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 (e.g., *L. micdadei*, *L. pneumophila* serogroup 6)
- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to multiple species of *Legionella* using pooled antigens.
- Detection of specific *Legionella* antigen or staining of the organism in lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid, or extrapulmonary site associated with clinical disease by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents

¹Clinical symptoms of pneumonia may vary, but must include acute onset of lower respiratory illness with fever and/or cough. Additional symptoms could include myalgia, shortness of breath, headache, malaise, chest discomfort, confusion, nausea, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.

²Clinical symptoms may vary, but must include acute symptom onset of one or more of the following: fever, chills, myalgia, malaise, headaches, fatigue, nausea and/or vomiting.

A3. Epidemiologic Linkage

- 1) Epidemiologic link to a setting with a confirmed source of *Legionella* (e.g., positive environmental sampling result associated with a cruise ship, public accommodation, cooling tower, etc.).
OR
- 2) Epidemiologic link to a setting with a suspected source of *Legionella* that is associated with at least one confirmed case.

A4. Case Classifications**Confirmed Legionnaires' disease (LD):**

A clinically compatible case of LD with confirmatory laboratory evidence for *Legionella*.

Probable Legionnaires' disease (LD): A clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link during the 14 days before onset of symptoms.

Suspect Legionnaires' disease (LD)

A clinically compatible case of LD with supportive laboratory evidence for *Legionella*.

Confirmed Pontiac fever (PF):

A clinically compatible case of PF with confirmatory laboratory evidence for *Legionella*.

Probable Pontiac fever (PF): A clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link during the 3 days before onset of symptoms.

Suspect Pontiac fever (PF):

A clinically compatible case of PF with supportive laboratory evidence for *Legionella*.

Confirmed Extrapulmonary legionellosis (XPL):

A clinically compatible case of XPL with confirmatory laboratory evidence of *Legionella* at an extrapulmonary site.

Suspect Extrapulmonary legionellosis (XPL):

A clinically compatible case of XPL with supportive laboratory evidence of *Legionella* at an extrapulmonary site.

B. Criteria to distinguish a new case of this disease or condition from reports or notifications which should not be enumerated as a new case for surveillance

An individual should be considered a new case if their previous illness was followed by a period of recovery prior to acute onset of clinically compatible symptoms and subsequent laboratory evidence of infection. The recovery period for legionellosis can vary based on patient-specific factors. CDC consultation is encouraged for case classification of individuals without clear periods of recovery or subsequent acute illness onset.

VIII. Period of Surveillance

Surveillance for legionellosis is expected to be ongoing.

IX. Data sharing/release and print criteria

1. CSTE recommends the following case statuses* be included in the ‘case’ count released outside of the public health agency:
 - Confirmed
 - Probable
 - Suspect
 - Unknown

* Which case statuses are included in the case counts constitute the “print criteria.”
2. Jurisdictions (e.g., States and Territories) conducting surveillance under this case definition should voluntarily submit de-identified case information to CDC in a mutually agreed upon format.

Production of national data summaries and national data re-release for non-NNCs:

- Prior to release of national data summaries CDC should follow the CDC/ATSDR Policy on Releasing & Sharing Data, issued on April 16, 2003 and referenced in 11-SI-01 and custodians of such data should consult the CDC-CSTE Intergovernmental Data Release Guidelines Working Group report <http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/ocso/ssr/drgwg.pdf> which contains data release guidelines and procedures for CDC programs re-releasing state, local, or territorial-provided data.
- CDC programs have a responsibility, in collaboration with states, localities, and territories, to ensure that CDC program-specific data re-release procedures meet the needs of those responsible for protecting data in the states and territories.
- Notification to CDC of suspect, probable, and confirmed legionellosis is recommended

X. Revision History

Position Statement ID	Section of Document	Revision Description
09-ID-45	VI. Criteria for case ascertainment A1	Add extrapulmonary legionellosis
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A1	Add clinical criteria for extrapulmonary legionellosis
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A1	Update clinical criteria for Legionnaires’ disease
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A1	Update clinical criteria for Pontiac fever
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A2	Change laboratory criteria to make validated nucleic acid amplification test a confirmatory laboratory diagnostic test
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A4	Add case classifications for extrapulmonary legionellosis
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A4	Revise case classifications for Legionnaires’ disease
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A4	Revise case classifications for Pontiac fever
09-ID-45	VII. Case Definition for Case Classification A4	Add case classifications for probable cases
09-ID-45	IX. Data sharing/release and print criteria	Revise case statuses to be included in the ‘case’ count to only confirmed

XI. References

1. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). National Notification for Legionellosis. CSTE position statement 09-ID-45. CSTE June 2009. Available from: <http://www.cste.org>
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XII. Coordination

Subject Matter Expert (SME) Consultants:

- (1) Laura Cooley MD, MPHTM
Medical Epidemiologist
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
404-639-2096
LCooley@cdc.gov
- (2) Albert E. Barskey IV, MPH
Epidemiologist
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(404) 639-3012
ABarskey@cdc.gov
- (3) Chris Edens, PhD
Epidemiologist
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
404-639-0079
WEdens@cdc.gov

Agencies for Response

- (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Robert R Redfield, MD
Director
1600 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta GA 30329
404-639-7000
Olx1@cdc.gov

XIII. Author Information

Submitting and Presenting Author:

- (1) Paul Gacek MPH, CPH
Epidemiologist
Connecticut Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue
MS #11EPI, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
860-509-7994
paul.gacek@ct.gov

Co-Author:

- (1) Active Member Associate Member

Vivian Hawkins, MS, PhD
Epidemiologist
Washington State Department of Health
1610 NE 150th St
MS: K17-9
Shoreline WA 98155
206-418-5500
Vivian.Hawkins@doh.wa.gov

- (2) Active Member Associate Member

T. Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, CIC
Surveillance Epidemiologist
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
305 South Street, Room 554
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-686-2542
scott.troppy@state.ma.us

- (3) Active Member

Elizabeth Hannapel, MPH
Epidemiologist
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree St. NW, 14th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-463-8908
Elizabeth.Hannapel@dph.ga.gov

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Technical Supplement

Table VI. Table of criteria to determine whether a case should be reported to public health authorities.

Criterion	Legionnaires' Disease	Extrapulmonary Legionellosis	Pontiac Fever
Laboratory Criteria for Reporting			
Isolation of any <i>Legionella</i> organism from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid	S		
Isolation of any <i>Legionella</i> organism from any extrapulmonary site		S	
Detection of any <i>Legionella</i> species from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by a validated nucleic acid amplification test	S		
Detection of any <i>Legionella</i> species from any extrapulmonary site by a validated nucleic acid amplification test		S	
Detection of <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 antigen in urine using validated reagents	S		S
Fourfold or greater rise in specific serum antibody titer to <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 using validated reagents	S		S
Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to specific species or serogroups of <i>Legionella</i> other than <i>L. pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 (e.g., <i>L. micdadei</i> , <i>L. pneumophila</i> serogroup 6)	S		S
Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to multiple species of <i>Legionella</i> using pooled antigens	S		S
Detection of specific <i>Legionella</i> antigen or staining of the organism in lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents	S		
Detection of specific <i>Legionella</i> antigen or staining of the organism from any extrapulmonary site by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents		S	
Vital Records Criteria for Reporting			
Death certificate lists Legionnaires' disease as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death	S		
Death certificate lists Pontiac fever as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death			S
Death certificate lists extrapulmonary legionellosis as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death		S	
Death certificate lists legionellosis as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death	S	S	S
Other Criteria for Reporting			
Healthcare record contains a diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease	S		
Healthcare record contains diagnosis of Pontiac fever			S
Healthcare record contains a diagnosis of extrapulmonary legionellosis		S	
Healthcare record contains a diagnosis of legionellosis	S	S	S

Notes:

S = This criterion alone is SUFFICIENT to report a case.

Table VII. Classification Table: Criteria for defining a case of legionellosis (including Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis).

Criterion	Suspect Legionnaires' Disease	Probable Legionnaires' Disease	Confirmed Legionnaires' Disease	Suspect Extrapulmonary Legionellosis	Confirmed Extrapulmonary Legionellosis	Suspect Pontiac Fever	Probable Pontiac Fever	Confirmed Pontiac Fever
Clinical Evidence								
Patient presents with radiographic or clinical pneumonia ³	O	O	O					
Patient presents with symptoms of lower respiratory illness	O	O	O					
Patient presents with symptoms of acute illness ⁴						N	N	N
Diagnostic testing reveals evidence of <i>Legionella</i> from an extrapulmonary site of disease				N	N			
Laboratory Evidence								
Isolation of any <i>Legionella</i> organism from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid			O					O
Isolation of any <i>Legionella</i> organism from any extrapulmonary site associated with clinical disease					O			
Detection of any <i>Legionella</i> species from lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by a validated nucleic acid amplification test			O					O
Detection of any <i>Legionella</i> species from any extrapulmonary site associated with clinical disease by a validated nucleic acid amplification test					O			
Detection of <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 antigen in urine using validated reagents			O					O
Fourfold or greater rise in specific serum antibody titer to <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 using validated reagents			O					O
Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to specific species or serogroups of <i>Legionella</i> other than <i>L. pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 (e.g., <i>L. micdadei</i> , <i>L. pneumophila</i> serogroup 6)	O					O		

³ Clinical symptoms of pneumonia may vary, but must include acute onset of lower respiratory illness with fever and/or cough.

Additional symptoms could include, myalgia, shortness of breath, headache, malaise, chest discomfort, confusion, nausea, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.

⁴ Clinical symptoms may vary, but must include acute symptom onset of one or more of the following: fever, chills, myalgia, malaise, headaches, fatigue, nausea and/or vomiting.

Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titer to multiple species of <i>Legionella</i> using pooled antigens	O								O			
Detection of specific <i>Legionella</i> antigen or staining of the organism in lower respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents	O								O			
Detection of specific <i>Legionella</i> antigen or staining of the organism from any extrapulmonary site associated with clinical disease by direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining, immunohistochemistry (IHC), or other similar method, using validated reagents					O							
Other Records Evidence												
Healthcare record contains diagnosis of Pontiac fever												S O
Healthcare record contains a diagnosis of extrapulmonary legionellosis							S	O				
Healthcare record contains diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease			S	O								
A clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link to a setting with either a confirmed source of <i>Legionella</i> or a suspected source of <i>Legionella</i> associated with at least one confirmed case		N									N	
Epidemiologic link occurred during the 14 days before onset of symptoms		N										
Epidemiologic link occurred during the 3 days before onset of symptoms											N	

Notes:

S = This criterion alone is SUFFICIENT to classify a case.

N = All "N" criteria in the same column are NECESSARY to classify a case. A number following an "N" indicates that this criterion is only required for a specific disease/condition subtype (see below). If the absence of a criterion (i.e., criterion NOT present) is required for the case to meet the classification criteria, list the absence of criterion as a necessary component.

O = At least one of these "O" (ONE OR MORE) criteria in **each category** (categories=clinical evidence, laboratory evidence, and epidemiologic evidence) **in the same column**—in conjunction with all "N" criteria in the same column—is required to classify a case. A number following an "O" indicates that this criterion is only required for a specific disease/condition subtype.

Appendix 1.

Note: Appendices were developed as tools for health department use, but they are not binding and are independent from the case definition and case classifications.

Incubation Period

The incubation period for legionellosis should inform the collection of data related to possible sources of exposure. We recommend that public health practitioners conduct case investigations and gather potential exposure sources across the time frames below based on incubation period data. Use of consistent time frames for case investigations facilitates cross-jurisdiction notification which is critical for travel- and healthcare-associated cluster detection. Because the incubation periods for Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac fever are different, we recommend that exposure history collection time frames differ accordingly.

Legionnaires' disease

We recommend that exposure history data be collected for the 14 days prior to illness onset. This recommendation is based on observations that most cases have illness onset within 10 days of exposure, but up to 16% of cases have onset more than 10 days after exposure.^{1,2,3} 99% of cases have illness onset within 14 days of exposure.^{4,5} Use of a 14-day exposure history period will better enable cluster detection than use of a ten-day exposure history period.

Pontiac fever

We recommend that exposure history data be collected for the 3 days prior to illness onset. This recommendation is based on observations that most cases have onset within 2 days of exposure and all cases had onset with 3 days with only one exception noted in the literature.^{2,6,7,8}

References

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Appendix 2.

Note: Appendices were developed as tools for health department use, but they are not binding and are independent from the case definition and case classifications.

Travel-Associated Case Definition

Cases of legionellosis may be associated with travel on a cruise ship or staying overnight in a hotel or other public accommodation. Like other travel-related infectious diseases, the identification of any given outbreak is hindered by the difficulties inherent in detecting clusters of disease among persons who have recently dispersed from a point source and returned to their home states. Outbreaks can occur in many settings, but are often reported in association with travel exposures.

Timely reporting of travel-associated cases with complete travel information aids early identification and control of sources of infection.

During an outbreak these definitions may be modified.

Public health response to cases, including defining an outbreak or decisions regarding environmental investigation, will be based on the local or state jurisdiction's assessment of the *Legionella* exposure risk at the identified accommodation(s) and evidence of epidemiologic links.

Standardized reporting definitions⁵ for travel-associated legionellosis:

Travel-associated Legionnaires' disease: A case of Legionnaires' disease in a patient who has a history of spending at least one night away from home (excluding healthcare settings) in the 14 days before onset of illness.

Travel-associated Pontiac fever: A case of Pontiac fever in a patient who has a history of spending at least one night away from home (excluding healthcare settings) in the 3 days before onset of illness.

The following goals for timely reporting of legionellosis cases are recommended:

- Within 7 days of the notification of a legionellosis case, the investigating health department will ascertain whether the patient spent at least 1 night away from home in the 14 days before onset of illness.
- If a history of travel is present in the 14 days before onset of illness, the state health department will, within 7 days of the initial notification, report the travel accommodation details (i.e., city, state, and address) and dates of travel to CDC.
- If there is no history of travel in the 14 days before onset of illness, the state health department will send complete legionellosis case information to CDC following case closeout.
- If there are epidemiologically linked travel-associated legionellosis cases, CDC will notify within 1 day and support state health departments to investigate further.

⁵ These definitions apply to both confirmed and suspected cases.

Appendix 3.

Note: Appendices were developed as tools for health department use, but they are not binding and are independent from the case definition and case classifications.

Healthcare-Associated Case Definition

Cases and outbreaks in healthcare settings may lead to investigation and preventive intervention. Thus, there is a need for a standardized definition to support identification and reporting of healthcare-associated Legionnaires' disease.

Outbreaks can occur in many settings, but are most frequently reported in association with travel and healthcare exposure.

During an outbreak these definitions may be modified.

Public health response to cases, including defining an outbreak or decisions regarding an environmental investigation, will be based on the local or state jurisdiction's assessment of the *Legionella* exposure risk at the identified facility/facilities and evidence of epidemiologic links.

Standardized reporting definitions⁶ for healthcare-associated Legionnaires' disease.

Presumptive healthcare-associated Legionnaires' disease: A case with ≥ 10 days⁷ of continuous stay at a healthcare facility⁸ during the 14 days before onset of symptoms.

Possible healthcare-associated Legionnaires' disease: A case that spent a portion of the 14 days before date of symptom onset in one or more a healthcare facilities, but does not meet the criteria for presumptive HA-LD.

⁶ These definitions apply to both confirmed and suspected cases and to cases with multiple facility stays.

⁷ The majority of Legionnaires' disease cases have illness onset within 10 days of exposure; for healthcare-associated case surveillance purposes, the goal is to capture the most likely exposure source.

⁸ Examples of healthcare facilities include acute care facilities, long term acute care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and clinics

Additional Co-Authors, Legionellosis Position Statement

- (4) Active Member
Moon Kim, MD, MPH
Medical Epidemiologist
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
313 N. Figueroa St. Rm. 222
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-240-7941
mokim@ph.lacounty.gov
- (5) Active Member
Jennifer E Layden, MD, PhD
Chief Medical Officer and State
Epidemiologist
Illinois Department of Public Health
69 W Washington
Chicago, IL 60602
312-835-0249
jennifer.layden@illinois.gov
- (6) Active Member
Jamie N. Sommer
Research Scientist
New York State Department of Health
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room
651
Albany, NY 12237
518-473-4439
jamie.sommer@health.ny.gov
- (7) Active Member
Bryce L. Spiker, MPH
Michigan Department of Health and Human
Services
333 S Grand Ave.
Lansing, Michigan, 48909
517-284- 9603
spikerb1@michigan.gov
- (8) Active Member
Dawn Terashita, MD, MPH
Associate Director, Acute Communicable
Disease Control Program
Los Angeles County Department of Public
Health
313 N Figueroa Street, Room 212
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-240-7941
dterashita@ph.lacounty.gov