

Memo to Health Care Professionals on Legionellosis

Update to York Region health care professionals as of May 19, 2026

The office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health is actively monitoring **two concurrent *Legionella* clusters** in Hamilton and Toronto, suggesting an unexpected early shift in the Legionella season. In Ontario, cases occur year round but typically peak in July. In 2025, 75.7% of confirmed legionellosis cases required hospitalization and 7.3% resulted in a fatal outcome.

There have been **six cases** of legionellosis reported in York Region this year and none are related to an outbreak. York Region Public Health (YRPH) continues to monitor and investigate cases of legionellosis within the region. Given the increased community risk, health care providers are encouraged to remain vigilant in clinical assessment, testing practices and timely reporting of suspected and confirmed cases to YRPH.

Clinical and Testing Guidance

- Maintain a high index of suspicion for legionellosis in patients presenting with pneumonia, particularly among adults aged 60 years and older, who experience the highest incidence of disease in Ontario. Early consideration of Legionella infection can support timely diagnosis and appropriate management
- Indications for testing and details on specimen collection and handling for Legionella may be found [here](#)
- While the urinary antigen test (UAT) is commonly used, health care providers are reminded that it detects only Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 and will not identify infections caused by other serogroups or species
- When clinically indicated, submission of a lower respiratory specimen for culture is strongly recommended. Obtaining a culture isolate is critical for public health investigations, as it enables genetic comparison with environmental samples to support source identification

How to Report to YRPH

If you suspect or have confirmation of cases of legionellosis, please report them to York Region Public Health:

- During regular business hours (Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.):
 - Call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588, or
 - Fax a completed [reportable diseases notification form](#) to 905-898-5213
- Outside of regular business hours (including statutory holidays), call 905-953-6478
- For general inquiries, email CIDIntakeLine@york.ca

Thank you for your continued vigilance and proactive efforts to protect the health of York Region residents.

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Additional Legionellosis Resources

- [YRPH Legionellosis Factsheet](#)

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