## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION</th>
<th>INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)</th>
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<td>LEGIONELLOSIS</td>
<td><em>Legionella pneumophila</em></td>
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### PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION

**KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION**
- Read about Legionellosis in the CD Manual.
- See the case definition for Legionellosis in the CD Manual.
- Print and review reporting forms:
  - *Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)*
  - *Part 2: Legionellosis (DHHS/EPI #18)*

### CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION

**COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION**
- If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary).
- Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.
- Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.
- Look for evidence of immunosuppressive conditions or medications which would suppress the immune system; other predisposing conditions such as diabetes, malignancy, liver disease, kidney disease and especially chronic lung disease. Smokers should be considered as having chronic lung disease.
- Identify the date of illness onset, which may differ from the date of positive laboratory result.

**REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION**
- Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease.
- Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied.

### IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES

**APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION**
- Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.
| ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE | • Review clinical documentation and interview patient or other knowledgeable person regarding potential exposures, including travel, healthcare, and other potential sources, during the 10 days before illness onset:
  o sources of aerosolized water (cooling towers, whirlpools, spas, pools, fountains, outdoor misters, humidifiers, nebulizers, C-PAP machines or other respiratory therapy devices)
  o contact to moist soils (including peat moss and potting soils)
  o recent outpatient medical care (e.g., physician offices, dental offices, dialysis centers, ambulatory surgery centers, etc) recent inpatient medical care (e.g., hospitalizations, long term care facilities) |
| IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES | • Use the CDC website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to teach at risk people about the disease.
• CD nurses should work with their environmental health specialist and other public health partners to evaluate the environmental risk, identify contaminated aerosolized water sources and assure disinfection. |
| REPORTING INVESTIGATION | | |
| REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD) | • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.
• Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. |
| CASE FINDING | • During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness.
• Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation. |
| SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | |
| STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING | • If microbiologic testing has not yet been performed and a respiratory specimen (e.g., sputum, lung tissue, pleural fluid) is available, consult with the Communicable Diseases Branch (919-733-3419) to determine if the specimen should be sent to the SLPH for microbiologic testing. The specimen submittal form can be found at: [http://slph.state.nc.us/Forms/DHHS-4121-SpecAtypBact-v2-withWorksheet.pdf](http://slph.state.nc.us/Forms/DHHS-4121-SpecAtypBact-v2-withWorksheet.pdf) |
| RISK COMMUNICATION | • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile case.
• Outbreaks might require NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and/or press release. Consult with the Communicable Diseases Branch (919-733-..) |
3419) for guidance and assistance.

- NC DHHS Public Information Office (919-733-9190) is available to assist local health departments as needed.