

# CDC Vital Signs

## Legionnaires' Disease

*[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Legionnaires' disease is a serious, often deadly lung infection. People most commonly get it by breathing in water droplets containing *Legionella* germs. Many people being treated at health care facilities, including long-term care facilities and hospitals, have conditions that put them at greater risk of getting sick and dying from Legionnaires' disease. *Legionella* grows best in buildings with large water systems that aren't managed effectively. Health care facility leaders should be aware that Legionnaires' disease is a risk in their facility and that they can do the following to prevent infections:

- Build a team *focused* on keeping the facility's water safe;
- Use a water management program to limit *Legionella* from growing and spreading;
- Work with healthcare providers to identify Legionnaires' disease cases *early* and determine if they may be associated with a health care facility; and
- Report cases to local public health authorities quickly.

To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/vitalsigns](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns).

*[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit [www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.*