

## LEGIONELLOSIS INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF STADIUM PLACE APARTMENTS

The Maryland Department of Health Mental Hygiene is working in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department to investigate reports of legionellosis (Legionella infection) associated with the Stadium Place apartments.

The bacteria that causes legionellosis is found in many different water sources - man-made and natural - and it is not certain that those who tested positive for legionellosis acquired the illness at Stadium Place. However, it is possible that there is an association between Stadium Place and the legionellosis cases. We would like to provide you with the following information about legionellosis.

### **Who gets legionellosis?**

Anyone can get this disease; however, certain people are more likely to get legionellosis. Individuals at higher risk include smokers, the elderly, those with lung or kidney disease, diabetes, cancer, and weakened immune systems because of diseases or medications.

### **What is legionellosis?**

Legionellosis is a form of pneumonia caused by bacteria called *Legionella pneumophila*.

### **What are the signs of legionellosis?**

The signs of legionellosis may include fever, cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia, chills and body aches.

### **How do you get legionellosis?**

The disease is spread by inhaling aerosols (mists) of water containing the bacteria. The disease is **not** spread from person to person.

### **Is there a cure for legionellosis?**

Yes. Legionellosis can be treated with antibiotics.

### **How soon do signs of legionellosis appear?**

Symptoms of the disease appear from two to ten days after coming in contact with the bacteria.

### **Why is the health department interested in cases of legionellosis?**

The health department would like to minimize the risk of infection to others in the community. Health care providers are asked to report all cases of legionellosis to their local health department.

### **Where can I get more information on legionellosis?**

You may contact the Baltimore City Health Department at 410-396-4436 during normal business hours or 311 after hours and on the weekends. You may also access more information on the internet by clicking the link: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidz/dbmd/diseaseinfo/legionella>.

### **What Persons Can Do to Reduce the Risk for Illness**

- Take baths instead of showers. While filling the tub, leave the bathroom. Fill the tub slowly and carefully to minimize the production of water sprays/mists.
- Use your dishwasher instead of the sink to wash dishes.
- If you have special concerns about your risk for this infection, you might consider using boiled or bottled water for drinking or brushing teeth.

If you experience symptoms of pneumonia, please check in with your health care provider.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Baltimore City Health Department.