



PRESS RELEASE

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of the Municipal Manager
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Cases of Legionnaires' Disease Reported in Hamilton Township

Trenton Water Works has reported recent issues with Legionella bacteria in the water. Two cases of Legionnaires' disease were reported in August 2022 from the section of Hamilton Township, Mercer County, served by Trenton Water Works. Contracting Legionella is fairly uncommon but not impossible. Because Legionnaires' Disease is a form of pneumonia, it is the severely immunocompromised, smokers, and elderly that are most at risk of severe illness and even death due to contracting the disease. Otherwise, healthy people may inhale the bacteria and suffer no consequence as is typically seen. There are many varieties of Legionella bacteria, around 60 currently known, with the most severe type we know being Legionella pneumophila which is the one most associated with Legionnaires' Disease.

According to the New Jersey Department of Health, residents can follow recommended best practices to reduce Legionella growth in their household water. For more information on best practices, please visit the Lawrence Township Health Department Legionella resources page at: <https://www.lawrencetwp.com/departments/health/LegionellaTestingResources>

The New Jersey Department of Health has also prepared resources regarding Legionnaires' Disease which can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/legion.shtml>

Additional Resources:

<https://nj.gov/health/news/2022/approved/20220829a.shtml>

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/legion/pamphlet_Legionnaires_Household_Water.pdf

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/faq/Legionellosis-New FAQ logo.pdf>