

CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

**LEGIONELLA UPDATE**

**August 1, 2018**

We have received the results from the first round of environmental sampling conducted at St. Columbkille Church in Parma on July 23. This first set of samples was taken from the cooling tower reservoir, which is a component of the church building's cooling system.

The results for this first set of samples have come back negative for the presence of legionella.

We are presently awaiting results for a second set of environmental samples taken on July 26. These samples were taken from various potable water sources inside the church building, such as water fountains and bathroom sinks and faucets. We anticipate receiving those results within the next week.

Our agency has been working closely with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) throughout this investigation. As we receive additional information, we will be issuing a comprehensive list of recommendations to the church administration.

---

**July 23, 2018**

**Afternoon update**

Per our earlier update and interviews today, we have cast a wide net to identify potential additional cases in our Legionella investigation. As a result of widening our search, we now have identified four additional confirmed cases of Legionella that attended services at the Saint Columbkille Parish. This brings our current total case count to 11. Among these cases, there has been one fatality.

The age range for the 11 confirmed cases is from 74-93 years of age. The onset date of illness among cases is early June to mid-July of this year.

We remind the public of the risk factors associated with Legionella as listed by the Centers for Disease Control:

- Over 50 years old
- Former or current smoker

- Chronic lung disease, such as emphysema or COPD
- Immune system disorders due to disease or medication
- Other illness such as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure

We are continuing to reach out to those individual cases in order to collect as much relevant information as possible. Their cooperation, as well as that of church officials and the parish community, is greatly appreciated.

Updates will be provided as we learn more through our investigation.

---

**July 23, 2018****Morning update**

We have been able to confirm that a 93 year-old female from Parma had been diagnosed with Legionnaire's Disease earlier this summer and passed away on July 5, 2018. This case is one of several that we are currently investigating as part of a possible Legionella cluster.

We continue to work cooperatively with officials at Saint Columbkille, conducting environmental sampling and interviewing members of the church community. A reminder that the results of the environmental sampling may take up to ten business days to be known.

Please follow this link to the Center for Disease Control's Legionella page to learn more:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/index.html>

---

**July 22, 2018**

We are presently working together with Saint Columbkille Parish in Parma in response to six confirmed cases of Legionella within the church's community. Environmental testing will be conducted on the premises of the church and results may take up to 10 days to be returned.

As a preventive measure, we recommended that the air conditioning units in the church be turned off until more information could be gathered and reviewed. Parishioners were notified of our recommendation in a statement issued by church officials.

We appreciate the community's patience as our investigation continues.

Please follow this link to the Center for Disease Control's Legionella page to learn more:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/index.html>