



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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Public Health Notice to Visitors

February 25, 2019

Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (WMCPHD) is currently investigating the occurrence of Legionnaires' disease involving 2 local residents. Exposure to the Legionella bacteria may have occurred at the Waco Family YMCA located at 6800 Harvey Road, Waco TX 76710.

Legionnaires' disease is a form of pneumonia caused by *Legionella* bacteria. The risk of developing Legionnaires' disease after exposure to the bacteria is very low. Most healthy people do not become sick after being exposed. Those at increased risk of developing infection include those 50 years or older, those with illnesses or receiving treatments that weaken the immune system, current or former smokers, and people with cancer or chronic lung disease. Exposure occurs by breathing in bacteria that are in water droplets small enough to be airborne and contain the Legionella bacteria. It is not contagious person to person. Most cases are successfully treated with antibiotics. When illness does occur it typically produces pneumonia with symptoms including high fever, cough, chills, fatigue, muscle aches, and headaches. These symptoms usually begin 2-14 days after being exposed.

WMCPHD is working with the Waco Family YMCA to identify possible sources of *Legionella* bacteria growth in the facility's water system. Hot tubs specifically are a potential source and in both instances there was exposure to the hot tub area. The hot tub is closed at this time but other aquatic facilities remain open. Appropriate actions are being taken to protect the health of visitors and staff and to disinfect the facility's water system.

If you have visited the Waco Family YMCA from February 4, 2019 to February 21, 2019 and now have or do become ill with symptoms of pneumonia in the two weeks following your visit, please see a health care provider to be evaluated for possible Legionnaire's disease and receive appropriate antibiotic if needed.

If you or your physician has any other concerns or questions, please contact the **WMCPHD at 254-750-5411**.

Additional information on *Legionella* is available from the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella>

Sincerely,

Rodney Martin
YMCA of Central Texas
President and CEO

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