## Legionellosis Outbreak Toolbox

**Updated: September 2022**

### Key reference documents
- WHO Legionellosis Fact Sheet (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022)

### Case definitions

#### WHO suggested outbreak case definition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suspected case</th>
<th>Confirmed case</th>
<th>Discarded case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Relevant pneumonic or non-pneumonic illness but no supporting microbiological evidence</td>
<td>• Relevant pneumonic illness and microbiological evidence of infection</td>
<td>• No microbiological evidence of infection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### WHO surveillance case definitions

- Based on the patient’s clinical history, cases are classified as one of the following:
  - Legionnaires’ disease (relevant pneumonic illness and microbiological evidence of infection).
  - Pontiac fever or similar illness (relevant non-pneumonic illness and microbiological evidence of infection).
  - Asymptomatic legionellae infection (no illness compatible with microbiological result).
  - Legionella infection (microbiological evidence of infection but symptoms not known).
  - Suspected legionellosis (relevant pneumonic or non-pneumonic illness but no supporting microbiological evidence).
WHO other definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital acquired (nosocomial)</td>
<td>Date(s) of admission to hospital(s) before onset of symptoms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community acquired</td>
<td>Known exposure to cooling towers, whirlpool spas, showers, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel associated</td>
<td>Countries visited, dates of stay, name and address of accommodation used, room number, name of tour operator, use of showers, spa pools, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestically acquired</td>
<td>Use of domestic water system during incubation period, in absence of other risk exposures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Legionella and the prevention of legionellosis** (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2007)

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**Data collection tools**

- Case report forms: Not available
- Line list: Not available.
- Electronic tools: Not available.

**Laboratory confirmation**


**Response tools and resources**

- [Legionella Environmental Assessment Form Marking Guide](Centre for Disease Control and Prevention,2022).

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**Training**

- Not available
Other resources

- **Legionnaires’ disease outbreak case definitions** (Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2008).
- **Legionnaires’ disease outbreak investigation toolbox** (Stockholm: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; 2022).
- **Legionella (Legionnaires' Disease and Pontiac Fever)** (Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2021).
- **Toolkit for Controlling Legionella in Common Sources of Exposure** (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).
- **CDC Legionella materials** (Atlanta: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021).