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Event: Cluster of Legionnaires' Disease cases associated with the Hotel Partner & Spa, Vlorë, Labëria region, Albania

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Contact

For general, routine enquiries about legionella such as guidance or testing arrangements, please contact legionella@ukhsa.gov.uk (weekday working hours only). For further information on information in this briefing note contact the Legionella Surveillance Team Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) legionella@ukhsa.gov.uk.

For arranging reference microbiology sample testing, contact the Respiratory and Vaccine Preventable Bacteria Reference Unit (RVPBRU): **Tel: 020 8327 7887** (office hours). Outside of these hours, please contact the Colindale duty doctor on 0208 200 4400. Referral forms and additional information for the reference laboratory can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rvpbru-reference-and-diagnostic-services>

IRP Level: Routine response

Instructions for Cascade

- UKHSA Private Office Groups to cascade within Groups
 - Regional Deputy Directors to cascade to Directors of Public Health
 - UKHSA microbiologists to cascade to NHS Trust infection leads and non-UKHSA labs (NHS labs and private)
 - NHS labs/NHS infection leads/NHS microbiologist to cascade to clinicians within Emergency Departments and relevant local services
 - Devolved Administrations to cascade to Medical Directors and other DA teams as appropriate to their local arrangements
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Event:

In the last month, three confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease have been associated with the Hotel Partner & Spa, Vlorë, Labëria region, Albania. The cases are from three different regions in England. The three cases stayed at the same hotel between the 02 May and 16 May 2025 and had symptom onset in a 2 week-period (ending 22 May). This potentially indicates a rapidly evolving cluster (defined as three cases within a month of each other's date of symptom onset).

While there is an association between Legionnaires' disease occurrence and stays at this hotel, **the hotel itself has not been confirmed as the source of infection.** The Albanian public health authorities have been informed of the cluster via the International Health Regulations, National Focal Point (IHRNFP). WHO, ECDC and Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) have also been informed.

Implications & Recommendations

UKHSA Regions

Health Protection Teams should be aware of the possibility of Legionellosis associated with travel to Vlorë, Albania (southwestern coastal area, Labëria region). For any new cases of Legionellosis reported to have stayed in and around the Hotel Partner & Spa or other accommodation sites in Vlorë, please include the travel details on CIMS wizards/Legionnaires' reporting forms. Please also inform the national surveillance team of the cases legionella@ukhsa.gov.uk.

For all cases of Legionellosis, the national surveillance form should be completed and sent to the national legionella team as soon as possible, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme>. To help identify potential sources and other cases associated with this cluster it is important to obtain the names and addresses of the accommodation sites where cases have stayed during their incubation period, with accurate dates of arrival and departure provided for each site.

Clinicians and NHS Providers

Clinicians should be alert to any patients that present with symptoms suggestive of Legionellosis (including muscle aches, tiredness, headaches, dry cough and fever) with a history of recent travel to the Vlorë area, in the Labëria region of Albania.

In these cases, it is recommended that appropriate diagnostic tests are performed, these consists of urinary antigen tests and wherever possible, sputum samples should be obtained for PCR/culture.

Please notify any suspected Legionnaires' disease case to the relevant [health protection team](#) (HPT) as soon as possible.

Local and regional Laboratories

As per routine practice, urine specimens giving positive local results for legionellosis should be sent for confirmatory testing to the Respiratory and Vaccine Preventable Bacterial Reference Unit (RVPBRU), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-and-systemic-bacteria-section-request-form>, at UKHSA, Colindale. **It is important that lower respiratory specimens are obtained** for confirmation and typing; lower respiratory specimens (usually sputum or bronchoalveolar lavage) should be collected and sent to the reference laboratory (RVPBRU) as soon as possible for PCR and culture.

Implications & Recommendations for UKHSA sites and services

Duty doctors and the reference laboratory may receive queries; advice can be sought from the Legionella surveillance team: legionella@ukhsa.gov.uk

References/ Sources of information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legionnaires-disease-guidance-data-and-analysis>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legionnaires-disease-national-surveillance-scheme>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/respiratory-and-systemic-bacteria-section-request-form>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bacteriology-reference-department-brd-user-manual>
