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Event: Cluster of Legionnaires' Disease cases associated with **Planet Hollywood in Cancun, Mexico**

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Authorised by

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Contact

For general, routine enquiries about legionella (such as guidance or testing arrangements) or for further information on this cluster, please contact legionella@ukhsa.gov.uk (weekday working hours only).

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 on RVPBRU are at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rvpbru-reference-and-diagnostic-services>

IRP Level: Routine

Instructions for Cascade

- UKHSA Private Office Groups to cascade within Groups
 - Regional Deputy Directors to cascade to Directors of Public Health and Local Authority Environmental Health Teams
 - 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, 3 confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease have been associated with Planet Hollywood in Cancun, Mexico. Two cases reside in England and 1 in Northern Ireland. The 3 cases stayed at the same hotel between 26 June and 13 July 2025 and had symptom onset in a 1 week-period (ending 13 July). This potentially indicates a rapidly evolving cluster (defined as three cases within three months of each other's date of symptom onset). The sequence type for these *Legionella pneumophila* cases is not currently known.

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 Mexican public health authorities have been informed of the cluster via the International Health Regulations, National Focal Point (IHRNFP). WHO, ECDC, CDC 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 Planet Hollywood, Cancun, Mexico. For any new cases of Legionellosis reported to have stayed in and around Planet Hollywood or other accommodation sites in Cancun, 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 if available.

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. Lower respiratory tract 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>