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Legionnaires' disease transcript

Legionella bacteria: who is at risk

“Legionnaires' Disease is an infection, actually a bacterial infection, that can cause some serious pneumonia, even in potentially otherwise normal people, but also people who have underlying medical problems, maybe are older, have some lung disease, they can tend to have more severe disease.”

Legionella bacteria: Should we worry?

“In general I wouldn't want the public to be overly concerned about this. Sure, when we see outbreaks that cause people to be very sick or even die, its natural for people to be very concerned. In this case we know that this is an infection that is caused buy exposure to contaminated water. Unless you've been exposed to that you're really not at risk. In an outbreak situation, you really, it takes exposure to that water source to get infected.”

Legionella bacteria: Outbreaks in fresh water

“This is a bacteria that lives symbiotically with certain amoeba, that live in free, live in fresh water. And so often we'll see it in homes any time you have any fresh water. At low concentrations, it's usually not a problem, but when you start to see, sort of, contamination in water, especially water that is aerosolized, thinking about misters and things like that, that certainly does present potential risk.”