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Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Concludes Investigation into Legionellosis Outbreak in Orillia

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, Family Health Teams, Occupational Health Professionals, Ontario Health, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, EMS

Date: November 8, 2022

The investigation into an outbreak of 35 lab-confirmed Legionellosis cases in Orillia which began in [early October 2022](#), has now concluded. No new cases have been reported related to this outbreak since October 18, 2022.

The age range of cases was from 52 to 98 years of age with 18 of the cases being male. Twenty-nine cases required hospitalization, with two requiring ICU care for their infection. Unfortunately, there was one death related to this outbreak.

Following the health unit's extensive investigation of 27 known cooling towers at 17 sites in Orillia, ten sites were tested. It was determined that a strain of *Legionella spp.* found in the Orillia Rotary Place cooling tower was a genetic match with one sputum sample of a case of Legionnaires' disease among the 35 cases. Testing for the source of the other 34 cases was not feasible. In addition, testing could not be done for seven of the sites due to them being shut down for the season prior to the start of the investigation. The cooling towers in operation in Orillia that have been identified by the health unit (both public and private) are being closely monitored. The City of Orillia has shut down the Rotary Place cooling tower until further notice.

If you have any questions, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at 705-721-7520 ext. 8809.

