



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Terrence Ates  
Public Information Officer  
(903) 343 - 5451**

### **Health Officials Investigate Local Cases of Legionnaire's Disease**

**Tyler, Texas (October 31, 2019)** – Seven confirmed cases and five possible cases of Legionnaires' disease have been identified in the Northeast Texas region. The investigation of these cases is ongoing, as the NET Health Disease Surveillance Division is working with organizers of the East Texas State Fair to investigate any connections of these cases with attendance at the East Texas State Fair this year (September 20<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>).

Anyone who attended the East Texas State Fair and is sick due to symptoms of Legionnaires' disease is urged to discuss Legionnaires' disease with your health care provider immediately. Legionnaires' disease is caused by Legionella bacteria that can become spread through inhaled water droplets spread through the air. While Legionnaires' disease is not typically spread person to person, State Health Officials, event organizers, and Local Health Departments are investigating reports and working to identify a source.

Symptoms of Legionnaires' disease may include cough, high fever, weakness, muscle aches, headaches, and shortness of breath. Legionnaires' disease is treated with antibiotics, and most people who get sick with this disease may need to be hospitalized but will fully recover.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 out of 10 people with Legionnaires' disease will die from the infection. Most healthy people exposed to Legionella do not become sick but certain people are at increased risk for getting Legionnaires' Disease including:

- Those age 50 or older
- Current or former smokers
- Those with chronic lung disease like emphysema or COPD
- Those with weakened immune systems due to disease or medication

If you live in the Northeast Texas region and have questions about Legionnaires' disease, please call the Disease Surveillance Division at NET Health at (903) 595-1350.

#### **About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)**

As the local public health department for the City of Tyler and for Smith County, NET Health serves a vital function for our northeast Texas citizens with our Departments of Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control, Laboratory Services, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) and Community Outreach.

The mission of NET Health is to promote health, prevent illness and protect our community. More information is available at [MyNETHealth.org](http://MyNETHealth.org). ["Like" us on Facebook](#) and ["Follow" us on Instagram](#).

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