



News Release

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***Legionella* bacteria test results positive in Yakima**

Test results confirm the presence of *Legionella* bacteria in samples taken from the men's hot tub at the Yakima Athletic Club location at 2501 Racquet Lane. The Yakima Health District obtained samples on December 4, 2017 after an individual contracted Legionnaires' disease. After the samples had been sent to the lab, a second member of the club contracted Legionnaires' disease.

"The only commonality that we were able to identify between the individuals who got sick was the hot tub at the Yakima Athletic Club. The positive test results for *Legionella* lead us to believe the hot tub was the likely source of bacteria," said Holly Myers, Environmental Health Director at the Yakima Health District.

When the initial investigation revealed the possible link to the Yakima Athletic Club, the Health District recommended that the hot tub be closed until lab results are available and the facility voluntarily complied. Yakima Health District has provided the athletic club's management with the required procedure for equipment disinfection. Regarding the investigation process Myers said, "The Yakima Athletic Club has acted quickly to follow procedures and decontaminate possible exposure sites."

Legionnaires' disease is contracted by inhaling aerosol droplets of water contaminated with the bacteria *Legionella*. Sources of the aerosol can include showers, hot tubs, faucets, cooling towers, misters and decorative fountains. Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caused by the *Legionella* bacteria. Most people exposed to *Legionella* will not get sick, however, it can cause severe illness and sometimes result in death in severe cases.

Generally, people do not spread Legionnaires' disease to other people. Legionnaires' disease symptoms are very similar to other types of pneumonia and can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, muscle aches, and headaches.

More information on Legionnaires' disease is available on the Department of Health [website](#).