Legionellosis is an infection caused by *Legionella* bacteria. There are two different types of legionellosis: Pontiac fever and Legionnaires’ disease. Pontiac fever is a mild respiratory illness and Legionnaires’ disease is a type of pneumonia. Most of the time, legionellosis happens as a single event, but outbreaks involving large numbers of people have happened. Those who have a compromised immune system, who smoke, or who are 50 years or older are more likely to be affected by legionellosis.

**How is it spread?**
- *Legionella* bacteria can be found in both natural and man-made water sources.
- *Legionella* bacteria grow well in warm water (e.g., cooling towers, hot tubs, plumbing systems, hot water heaters, decorative fountains).
- People become sick when they breathe in mist from a water source that has *Legionella* bacteria.
- It cannot normally be spread from person to person.

**What are the signs and symptoms?**
*Symptoms usually start two to 10 days after breathing in mist or water droplets that have Legionella bacteria.*
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Coughing
- Fever
- Diarrhea (occasionally)

**What are the treatment options?**
- Treatment depends on whether the person has Pontiac fever or Legionnaires’ disease.
- Pontiac fever requires supportive care only and will go away on its own.
- Legionnaires’ disease requires treatment with antibiotics.

**How can it be prevented?**
- There are no vaccines against *Legionella* bacteria.
- To prevent *Legionella* bacteria from growing, it is important to make sure that water systems in buildings are being properly cared for and maintained.