



Barry-Eaton District Health Department

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Legionella Remediation Continues at Spectrum Health Pennock

This is an update regarding the *Legionella* bacteria found in the private water system at Spectrum Health Pennock hospital in Hastings late last year. Spectrum Health Pennock has installed a permanent monochloramine water treatment unit for their private water system to address the bacterial contamination that was identified in December of 2018. Spectrum Health Pennock continues to work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to obtain all required permits and approvals to operate the secondary treatment system. Spectrum Health Pennock also continues to test the water for *Legionella* bacteria. To this date, no *Legionella* bacteria has been found in the water after three consecutive rounds of bimonthly testing. Testing of the water for *Legionella* bacteria will continue bimonthly through March 2019. After that, testing will occur monthly for another three months for a total of six months of monitoring. The Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) will continue to monitor these results.

After *Legionella* bacteria was found in the water, temporary filters and signage were installed prior to the installation of the treatment unit. These have since been removed as the treatment unit has demonstrated it has been effective in removing any *Legionella* bacteria present in the water supply.

BEDHD continues to have no reason to believe this situation is associated with the City of Hastings' municipal water supply. Routine daily required bacteriological sampling within the city's water system is being performed. Nothing of concern has been reported or is currently being reported in the Hastings municipal supply.

Legionnaire's Disease is caused by bacteria called *Legionella*. Legionnaire's Disease is a kind of pneumonia, or lung infection. People can become infected with *Legionella* when they breathe in water droplets containing the bacteria. Symptoms of Legionnaire's Disease are cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, and fever. Legionnaire's Disease can be serious but is treatable with antibiotics. Most people with Legionnaire's Disease will need to go to the hospital but will make a full recovery. However, about 1 in 10 people with Legionnaire's die from the infection. Legionnaire's cannot be spread from person to person. If you are experiencing these symptoms please contact your healthcare provider promptly. Be sure to mention if you have used a hot tub, spent any nights away from home, or stayed in a hospital in the last two weeks.

More information about Legionnaire's Disease can be found on the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/fastfacts.html>.