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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers,
Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians Walk-in
Clinics LTC Facilities

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LEGIONELLOSIS AWARENESS

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently investigating possible healthcare-associated cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD) at McLaren Flint and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospitals. Each hospital had a case that has been classified as a definite healthcare association. In general, most individuals who develop LD were exposed to water containing the Legionella bacteria sometime during the 10 days before illness onset. There is heightened concern for exposures in hospitals because they service vulnerable populations.

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is sharing information about these investigations with the healthcare community to facilitate clinical awareness, to enable providers to assess possible healthcare exposures, and to rule in/out LD when evaluating patients presenting with pneumonia.

Key items to remember:

- Clinicians are reminded to test patients with suspected healthcare-associated pneumonia for LD.
- Recommended diagnostic tests are culture of lower respiratory secretions (e.g., sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage) on selective media and Legionella urinary antigen test.
- Tests should be conducted concurrently and prior to antibiotic administration.
- Legionella isolates (or clinical respiratory specimens from urinary antigen positive patients) should be submitted to the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories (guidance attached).
- Please inform SCCHD immediately if you learn of LD diagnosis among patients, visitors, or staff from McLaren Flint Hospital or St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Hospital.

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect or confirmed cases (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the "After Hours Emergency Contact List" or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.