

Diseases and conditions reported during November 17 – 30, 2024:

This report is a bi-monthly snapshot of communicable diseases reported in El Paso County, as well as a report of disease trends and local health alerts. El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Communicable Disease Program partners with the medical community and the public to limit and reduce the spread of diseases in our community.

Reportable diseases and conditions:

- 9 Animal Bites – 4 pediatric, 5 adults: 2 recommended to receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- 4 Campylobacter – 2 pediatric, 2 adults
- 2 Cryptosporidiosis - adults
- 1 Dengue - adult
- 4 Giardiasis - 1 pediatric, 3 adults
- 14 Influenza-associated hospitalizations – 3 pediatric, 11 adults
- 1 Invasive pneumococcal disease - adult
- 1 Legionellosis - adult
- 10 Pertussis – 7 pediatric, 3 adult
- 6 RSV-associated hospitalization – pediatric
- 4 Salmonellosis – adults
- 2 Shigellosis - adults
- 1 Varicella - pediatric

Additional reports:

- Hospitalized Influenza since September 29, 2024: 17 total (16 Influenza A, 1 Influenza B, 0 unsubtyped)
- Outbreaks reported:
 - 1 Pertussis Outbreak – associated with a religious facility.
 - 1 Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease Outbreak - associated with a childcare facility
 - 2 COVID-19 Outbreaks - one associated with a childcare facility and one with a elementary school.
 - 5 COVID outbreaks in long term care facilities (investigated by CDPHE)

For a list of reportable diseases and conditions and instructions on how to report, follow this [link](#).

Health News: Legionnaires’ Disease and Testing

Background

- Legionnaires’ disease is caused by the bacteria Legionella pneumophila. People are exposed when they inhale water vapor (mist) that contains the bacteria. Sources of contaminated water vapor (warm or cool) include locations such as pools, hot tubs, showers, faucets or cooling towers.
- Legionella bacteria replicate in temperatures of 68-128 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and can survive between 32-158 °F.
 - Ideal conditions for growth include warm water, stagnate water, in presence of organic matter, and in the absence of residual disinfectants.
- Nine cases of legionellosis have been reported in El Paso County thus far in 2024, with seven cases being reported from July – August (Graph 1).
 - There was an average of 10 cases of legionellosis reported per year from 2017-2024 (Graph 2)
 - Although cases of Legionella are reported year-round in El Paso County, the majority occur in the months of July, August and September.

Symptoms and Testing

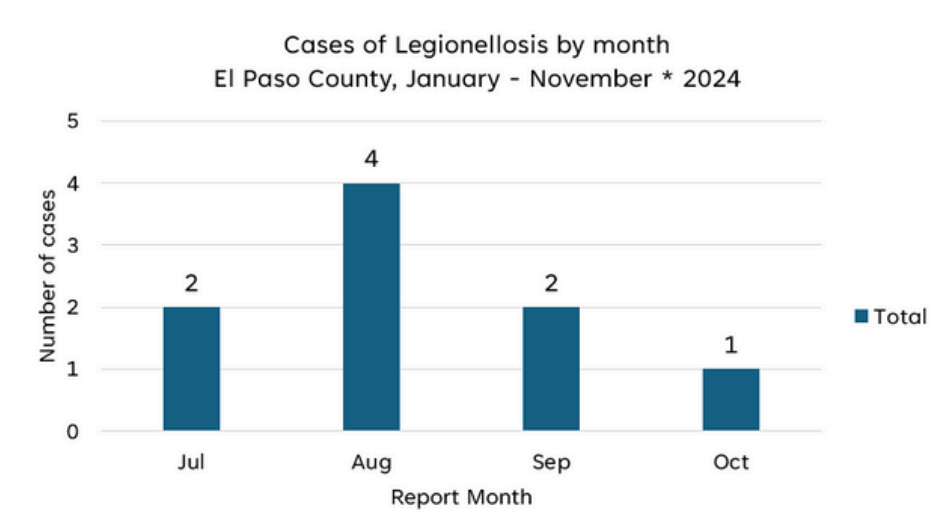
- Symptoms can include malaise, myalgias, fever, chills, headache, and a non-productive cough.
- Legionella cannot be transmitted from person to person.
- Individuals most at risk of legionellosis are aged 50 years or older (especially tobacco smokers), have chronic lung disease, or are immunocompromised.
- Per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), indications that warrant testing patients with pneumonia for Legionnaires’ disease include:
 - Patients who have failed outpatient antibiotic treatment for community-acquired pneumonia.
 - Patients with severe pneumonia, in particular those requiring intensive care.
 - Immunocompromised patients with pneumonia.
 - Patients with a travel history (patients who have traveled away from their home within 10 days before the onset of illness).
 - Patients with unexplained healthcare-associated pneumonia.
 - Patients with pneumonia in the setting of a Legionnaires’ disease outbreak or with a history of exposure.
- To aide in diagnosis, providers should consider alternate diagnoses especially during respiratory season (October-May) and test for additional respiratory pathogens as indicated.
- The most commonly used diagnostic test for legionellosis is the urinary antigen test for L. pneumophila serogroup 1. [note, urinary antigen can remain positive for months after an acute infection, even with antibiotic treatment]. Additionally, lower respiratory tract samples (sputum and bronchoalveolar lavage) can be tested by culture and legionella PCR. Public health encourages use of multiple test types to establish a diagnosis of legionellosis.

References: <https://www.cdc.gov/investigatelegionella/>

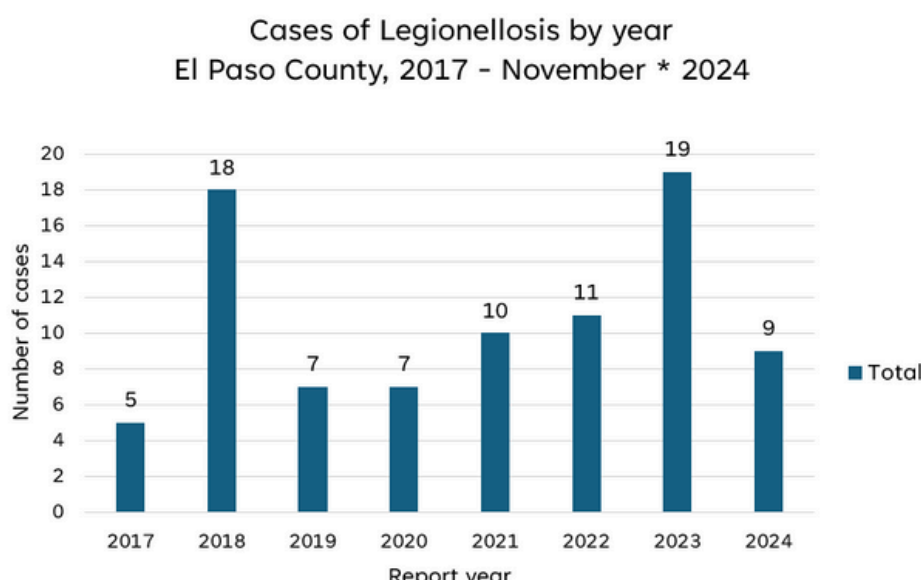
CDC_AAref_Val=<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/causes-transmission.htm>

Graphs, Charts, Supporting Infographics:

Graph 1



Graph 2



Questions? Please Contact:

El Paso County Public Health CD/TB Program
Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(719) 578-3220; after-hours emergency: (719) 235-2278
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(303) 692-2700; after-hours emergency: (303) 370-9395
www.elpasocountyhealth.org
Reportable Diseases and Conditions List