

January 21, 2020



Dear Carol Stream School Parent/Guardian,

This message is intended to keep you informed regarding a health concern that may impact your child. As you may have seen in the news, three cases of Legionnaires' disease have been identified at Covenant Living of Windsor Park retirement community since May 2019, two of which have been fatal to retirement community residents. You are receiving this communication because your child visited the retirement community on Wednesday, January 15 as part of CCSD93's partnership with Windsor Park.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is investigating the situation, and it has not yet identified whether the instances are related or if there is a source of the disease within the facility. The specific timing of the most recent infection has not been released. As such, it is important to note that CCSD93 can neither confirm nor rule out the possibility that your child may have been exposed. In the interest of student health and safety, it is critical that we share this information with you in a timely manner. Please review the following regarding Legionnaires' disease, its symptoms, effects, methods for transmission, methods for treatment, and further resources for you.

### **What is Legionnaires' Disease?**

Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia caused by a bacterium known as legionella.

### **What are its Signs, Symptoms & Effects?**

Legionnaires' disease usually develops two to 10 days after exposure. Signs and symptoms can include cough, muscle aches, fever, shortness of breath, and headaches. Its effects can be severe, causing hospitalization; complications including respiratory failure, septic shock, and acute kidney failure; and in some cases fatality.

### **Who is at Greatest Risk?**

Most healthy young people do not get Legionnaires' disease. Those who are 50 years or older, smoke, have chronic lung disease, or have a weakened immune system are at greatest risk.

### **How it is Spread?**

In general, people do not spread Legionnaires' disease to other people. Most people become infected when they inhale microscopic water droplets containing legionella bacteria. This might be from the spray from a shower, faucet or whirlpool, or water from the ventilation system in a large building. Outbreaks have been linked to hot tubs and whirlpools, cooling towers in air conditioning systems, hot water tanks and heaters, decorative fountains, swimming pools, birthing pools, and drinking water.

### **How is it Treated?**

Legionnaires' disease is treated with antibiotics. Treating it as soon as possible can help shorten the recovery period and prevent serious complications.

**If you believe your child has developed any of the symptoms listed above, contact their doctor immediately.** For more information, view these resources from the [Mayo Clinic](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#), which were referenced throughout the creation of this letter.

We will share additional pertinent information regarding this situation if and when details become available. CCSD93 visits to Windsor Park have been suspended until further notice. Please contact me at 630-539-3000 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

David H. Hill, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
CCSD93

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**David H. Hill, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

Early Childhood Center

Carol Stream School

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Jay Stream Middle School

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