



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Officials Investigate Local Cases of Legionnaire's Disease

Tyler, Texas (November 15, 2019) – NET Health is committed to definitively identifying the exact source of our local Legionella cases, yet we ask everyone to exercise patience with the scientific process of testing and confirming the exact source of contamination.

No new cases of Legionnaire's Disease has been identified by our thorough investigations and NET Health has identified no evidence of any public health risk that would interrupt current or future events from occurring at Harvey Hall and its neighboring properties.

Attendance at previous, upcoming, or future events at Harvey Hall do not mean that a person has contracted or will contract the Legionella bacteria, as it is only spread whenever water droplets that contain the Legionella bacteria are dispersed in the air and are breathed by a person. Transmission of Legionnaire's Disease does not occur person-to-person.

The Process of Obtaining Water Samples

The testing for the potability and safety of public water supplies and distribution systems are required by regulations set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These results are regularly reported to the TCEQ and available to the public through their website - <https://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>.

When there is reasonable cause to investigate at any facility, such as the local cases of Legionnaire's Disease, then the local Environmental Health Department, a division of NET Health, is contacted by the property owner to help perform an environmental assessment of the property.

Initial water testing was conducted by NET Health on October 25, 2019, and revealed appropriate chlorine levels were present within water samples collected in Harvey Hall. Chlorine is one of several items used to ensure public water is safe, and is the only element that is tested within the initial sampling process.

On Monday, November 11th, subsequent water samples were taken, so that the specificity of identifying any traces of the Legionella bacteria can become cultured and definitively identified.

NET Health has no involvement in the testing processes, for these samples were sent directly to the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia on Monday, November 11th. We will report the results of these test samples as soon as they are made available to NET Health from the CDC.

Update on the Initial Possible Cases

Of the previous five possible cases of Legionnaires' disease that were initially reported by NET Health on October 31st, four of the five possible cases have been eliminated from further review and one of these five possible cases has been confirmed, which updates the total to eight confirmed cases on Legionnaire's Disease.

The confirmation of the eighth new case and the elimination of the four possible cases underwent an extensive investigation, as we continue to communicate with all vendors who possessed access to water while operating within Harvey Hall in late September, as well as with attendees who were in proximity to the known cases.

If you live in the Northeast Texas region and have questions about Legionnaires' disease, please call the Disease Surveillance Division at NET Health at (903) 595 - 1350.

About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)

As the local public health department for the City of Tyler and for Smith County, NET Health serves a vital function for our northeast Texas citizens with our Departments of Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control, Laboratory Services, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) and Community Outreach.

The mission of NET Health is to promote health, prevent illness and protect our community. More information is available at MyNETHealth.org. [“Like” us on Facebook](#) and [“Follow” us on Instagram](#).

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