



## Legionnaires' Disease



### Overview

This severe lung infection is a form of pneumonia. It's more common in older adults. It's more common in smokers, and in people who have a weakened immune system.

### Causes

This disease is caused by the *Legionella* bacterium. The bacteria multiplies in plumbing and air systems. It can live in swimming pools, hot tubs and fountains. When the bacteria spread through building ventilation systems, many people may get infected by breathing the infected air.

### Symptoms

Symptoms begin with a high fever, headache, muscle pain and chills. Then, you develop a productive cough. You can have shortness of breath and chest pain. You can have nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. And, you may become confused. Without proper care, you can have serious complications. Your lungs, kidneys and other organs may be damaged. You can die.

### Treatment

This disease is treated with antibiotics. You may need to be hospitalized. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.