

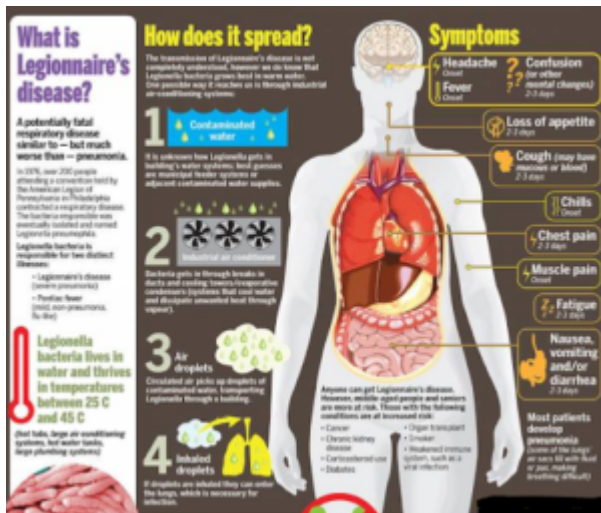
Legionnaires' disease

September 8, 2022

In news- Argentina's mystery pneumonia outbreak, where more than ten people have been infected, has finally been identified as Legionellosis (Legionella bacteria).

About the disease-

- **Legionellosis is a generic term describing the pneumonic and non-pneumonic forms** of infection with the **Legionella species of bacteria.**
- Legionellosis varies in severity from mild to serious and can sometimes be fatal.
- **Legionnaires' disease, the pneumonic form,** has an incubation period of 2 to 10 days (but up to 16 days have been recorded in some outbreaks).
- It is an **important cause of community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia;** and although uncommon, Legionnaires may cause outbreaks of public health significance.
- Initially, **symptoms are fever, mild cough, loss of appetite, headache, malaise and lethargy,** with some patients also experiencing muscle pain, diarrhoea and confusion.
- **The severity of Legionnaires' disease ranges from a mild cough to rapidly fatal pneumonia.**
- **Mortality from Legionnaires' disease depends on the severity of the disease,** the use of antibiotic treatment, the setting where Legionella was acquired, and whether the patient has underlying conditions, including immunosuppression.



- **The death rate may be as high as 40–80%** in untreated immunosuppressed patients and can be reduced to 5–30% through appropriate case management, depending on the severity of the clinical signs and symptoms. **Overall, the death rate is usually between 5–10%.**
- The disease **typically spreads via inhalation of contaminated aerosols from contaminated water, which could come from – air conditioning cooling towers, evaporative condensers** associated with air conditioning and industrial cooling, hot and cold water systems, humidifiers and whirlpool spas.
- **Direct human-to-human transmission of this disease has not yet been reported.**