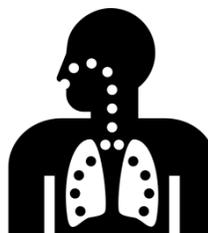


Respiratory Medical Equipment & *Legionella*



Legionella are bacteria that can cause a serious lung infection called Legionnaires' disease. *Legionella* grow naturally in water and can also be found in human-made water sources. People can become infected with *Legionella* when they inhale water droplets that contain the bacteria.



Respiratory medical equipment is not a common source of *Legionella* infection. However, equipment that uses water, like a nebulizer, BiPAP, CPAP or humidifier, may spread *Legionella* if it is not properly used, cleaned or maintained.

Keep yourself safe while using respiratory equipment

Review and follow the equipment manufacturer's instructions to:

- Always use the appropriate water source** (usually distilled or sterile)
- Clean equipment parts and accessories regularly**
- Replace any broken or damaged parts**



The number of people with Legionnaire's disease in Tennessee and in the United States has increased since 2000. In 2017, over **200 people in Tennessee** were diagnosed with **Legionnaire's disease** and **21% used respiratory medical equipment** during the time they could have become infected.



To learn more about *Legionella*, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html>

Please contact the Tennessee Department of Health with questions or concerns: Legionella.Health@tn.gov



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