

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHIELA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner
210 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ingrid Antonio

PHONE: 443-984-2623

Ingrid.Antonio@baltimorecity.gov

BALTIMORE, MD (March 29, 2007)— In response to reports of *legionella* in the water supply of Maryland General Hospital, the Baltimore City Health Department and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have released the following recommendations:

Individuals who are currently ill with fever, cough, and shortness of breath and whose illness started within 10 days of receiving care at Maryland General Hospital should seek attention by a physician. If there are no other obvious causes of the disease, the physician should consider the diagnosis of *legionella* pneumonia and conduct laboratory testing. This testing should include urine antigen, serology, a chest X-ray, and culture for *legionella*.

Individuals who are not currently ill do not need to seek medical attention and do not need testing for *legionella* infection.

The Baltimore City Health Department and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have been in contact with Maryland General Hospital, which has been following published recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in responding to this situation. In addition, the Baltimore City Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will be reviewing Maryland General Hospital's laboratory, clinical, and environmental records and protocols.

Legionella infection is not transmitted person-to-person. It can be treated with commonly used antibiotics. For more information on *legionella*, see

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/legionellosis_g.htm

###