

## Holidaying woman in Legionella outbreak spa pool Somerset

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By Pat Roberts, Ormskirk Advertiser

A BURSCOUGH pensioner is seriously ill in Ormskirk Hospital suffering from legionnaires' disease after holidaying at a hotel in Somerset.

The 66 year old, who has not been named, became ill after returning home from the Cricket St Thomas Hotel and Leisure Centre near Chard.

Experts suspect the hotel's spa bath is the most likely source of the outbreak, which is caused by bacteria in water droplets.

Up to this week 14 confirmed cases, including the local woman, have been revealed.

A 66 year old woman from Hertfordshire has died and another woman from Kent has now been discharged after receiving hospital treatment.

Hotel management voluntarily closed the premises when the first cases came to light several weeks ago but they re-opened for business again on Monday.

Dr Ken Lambden from the Health Protection Unit based in Ormskirk, confirmed that a local woman was still suffering from legionnaires' disease and had been in the intensive care unit at the town's hospital for two weeks.

As this had been contracted away from the area, alerting local people was unnecessary.

An Ormskirk Hospital spokesperson said: "We do have a patient in the intensive care unit with legionnaires' disease.

"This has not been contracted locally. She has been given antibiotic treatment at present."

Dr Elaine Farmery, public health consultant for Somerset Health Protection Unit said that the spa bath at the Cricket St Thomas Hotel was "the most probably source" of the outbreak.