

Pair Fall Ill With Legionnaires' Disease In N.J.
Outbreak Occurred In Fort Lee Building

October 31, 2004

FORT LEE, N.J. -- Two elderly people have come down with confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease,

The outbreak occurred in a luxury New Jersey high-rise building. Health officials were set to meet with building residents Sunday morning.

The two victims are recovering,

Health officials have been testing the building's water system.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site,

Legionnaires' disease is a pneumonia-like infection caused by a bacterium.

It acquired its name in 1976 when an outbreak of pneumonia occurred among

persons attending a convention of the American Legion in Philadelphia.

Bergen County officials will meet with residents of a Fort Lee apartment building on Sunday to discuss a confirmed case of Legionnaire's disease.

\Eyewitness News reporter Ken Rosato is in Fort Lee.

There have been two confirmed cases of Legionnaire's disease here, and it

has residents of the building worried. The building is at 15-30 Palisade

Avenue, known as The Colony.

A 71-year-old woman is confirmed to have that disease, and an elderly man

who was hospitalized with similar symptoms back in June has also been confirmed to have it.

The condition has flu-like symptoms of; fever, chills, coughing, muscle aches, headaches, tiredness, fatigue, loss of appetite.

It is believed these cases are tied into the hot water supply, and it has been shut off until it can be cleaned.

Back in July there were two cases of the disease reported not too far from

here in Paterson. One person ended up dying in that outbreak, and those cases also tied into the hot water supply.

Health officials are holding a news conference on Sunday, and they will

discuss the ramifications of the disease with the building's residents.

Exposure to the disease does not mean one will get sick, usually younger and healthier individuals are not as susceptible as the elderly or the very young.

The best way to prevent the disease is to flush out the water system, and keeping the air conditioning ducts in a building are clean.