

# Lathes implicated in Strasbourg Legionella outbreak

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**September 10, 2004**

## **Three new cases of legionella in the Low-Rhine**

### STRASBOURG

Three new cases of Legionellosis were declared this week in the Low-Rhine, according to the DDASS (departmental Direction of the medical and social businesses).

These new cases which concern two people living in villages of the south of the department and an inhabitant of the agglomeration of Strasbourg would however not have a relationship with the episode which worried the departmental medical authorities in August.

Five people residing in the north and the west of the agglomeration of Strasbourg had been the subject of a diagnosis of Legionellosis in the space of ten days, a sixth person, died, being regarded as "a possible" victim of the bacterium.

The assessment which was initially of 10 cases, including three deaths, was then re-examined with the fall, a urinary test used for the first diagnosis having given erroneous results.

No case however declared since 20 August while all the towers of the agglomeration likely to be at the origin of the contamination were controlled and if necessary were disinfected or stopped.

On 82 lathes inspected within 38 establishments, only one, pertaining to Natexis-Banks Popular and located at the centre of the town, revealed a rate of more than 100.000 CFU/litre bacterium, in fact 300.000 CFU/litre, indicated Drire (regional Direction of industry, research and the environment) in an official statement.

It was stopped, drained, cleaned and disinfected.

Last nine other installations showed a rate ranging between 1.000 and 100.000 UFC/L which also imposed a simple disinfection.

It remains now, to try to determine the origin of "the epidemic" of August, to compare the bacterial stocks taken on these industrial facilities with those of the two only patients on whom the stock could be identified.

The species identified on the two patients are different and the analyses carried out in the residence or in the mediums of life of the people reached (hot water in particular) appeared negative.

Translated from original source.