

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

### Essential Service #2: *Protect people from health problems and health hazards*

#### Legionella

On September 30, the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) was informed of another case of Legionnaires disease at Covenant Living at the Holmstad in Batavia by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). As of October 7, there have been 15 total confirmed cases: 13 at Covenant Living at the Holmstad and two additional cases – one resident of Geneva and one resident of Batavia, within one half mile of the facility.

Legionnaires' disease is caused by the Legionella bacteria. Legionella bacteria can be found in both natural and manmade water systems. Natural water sources including streams, rivers, freshwater ponds and lakes, and mud can contain the organism in low levels. The Legionella bacterium grows in areas of warm water. In order to be infected with the bacteria, a person must breathe in a mist or vapor that contains the bacteria. To date, there is no evidence that the Legionella bacteria are spread from person-to-person. Each year from 200-550 Legionellosis cases are reported in the state of Illinois.

For a list of Frequently Asked Questions about Legionnaires' disease see: <http://kanehealth.com/Documents/Diseases/Legionellosis-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>



#### Ten essential services of Public Health

1. Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community
2. Protect people from health problems and health hazards
3. Give people the information they need to make healthy choices
4. Engage the community to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop public health policies and plans
6. Enforce public health laws and regulations
7. Help people receive health services
8. Maintain a competent public health workforce
9. Evaluate and improve programs and interventions
10. Contribute to and apply the evidence base of public health

Link to Departmental Statistics: [kanehealth.com/Pages/Public-Health-Reports.aspx](http://kanehealth.com/Pages/Public-Health-Reports.aspx)

## Essential Service #9: *Evaluate and improve programs and interventions*

### PHAB Reaccreditation Process

The Kane County Health Department has been accredited for five years. When initial accreditation expires, KCHD must apply for and achieve reaccreditation to maintain accreditation status. The KCHD team met with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) for a virtual site visit on September 30th. The results from the reaccreditation process are expected in November. PHAB reaccreditation builds on initial accreditation but is very different. According to PHAB: "The reaccreditation process provides health departments with the opportunity to describe how their department addresses essential public health services and provides the opportunity to reflect on how they plan continued improvement. Accreditation is not a one-time recognition. The required annual reports and reaccreditation process allow for the sustained acknowledgement of the health department meeting nationally recognized standards and achieving continued quality and performance improvement. Continual improvement, and having that improvement externally validated, is a hallmark of a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization . . . Reaccreditation has been designed to address the impact and contributions of health strategies that improve population health."



## Essential Service #1: *Monitor health status and understand health issues facing the community*

### Vaping Update

The CDC, FDA, state and local health departments are investigating a multistate outbreak of lung injury associated with use of e-cigarette, or vaping products. As of October 1, 2019 there have been 1,080 cases reported to CDC from 48 states and one U.S. territory. 18 Deaths have been confirmed in 15 states (one in Illinois, not Kane County). As of October 3, 2019 there have been 102 respiratory illness associated with vaping cases (confirmed and probable) in Illinois. In Kane County, there are 10 confirmed and probable cases. In Illinois, 81% of cases report e-cigarette THC usage in the three months prior to symptoms appearing. There are also 19% of cases that report only nicotine in e-cigarette usage (no THC use). It's important to note that these cases are very sick. In Illinois, 99% of confirmed and probably cases were admitted to hospital and 62% of cases were admitted to ICU.

This is an ongoing investigation with suspect cases being reported to the health department from health care providers. Suspect cases are interviewed to better understand their symptoms and progression of disease, as well as gain insight into their vaping habits such as type of product used, frequency of use, type of device used and information on where product was purchased. Whenever possible, the product is given to the health department and this is passed on to labs for testing. It is still not known if there is any one particular chemical or contaminant responsible for causing the respiratory illness in some people who vape. Finally, IDPH is conducting an anonymous survey to try to understand if vaping habits are different between people who have become ill after vaping and those who have not. The link to the survey is: [https://is.gd/understanding\\_vaping\\_habits](https://is.gd/understanding_vaping_habits). Please share this link.