

Legionella Facts

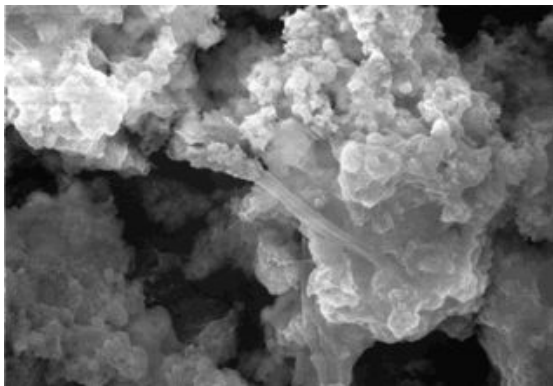
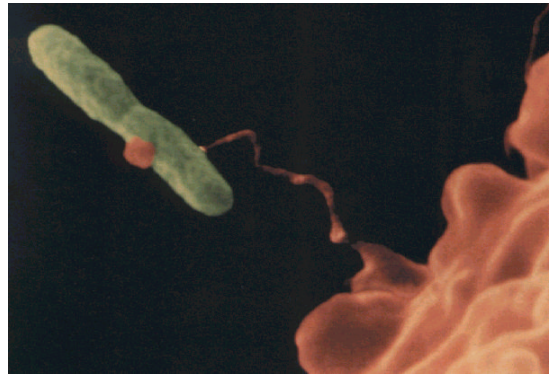
Blue Note CW-101



Is your facility at risk of becoming a source of Legionnaires' Disease?

In July 1976, 182 attendees of the American Legion Pennsylvania State Convention became ill with flu like symptoms. Of those, 147 were hospitalized and 29 died. After considerable study, it was determined that the cause was the organism Legionella pneumophila. After additional study, the following was learned about the organism and disease:

- ⇒ the organism is ubiquitous - it exists in almost all surface waters
- ⇒ the bacterium and the disease has been around for a very long time but it is frequently misdiagnosed as 'flu' - estimates of up to 200,000 US cases/year
- ⇒ there are over 50 serogroups of Legionella sp. but Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 is most commonly associated with Legionnaires' Disease
- ⇒ L. pneumophila likely reproduces as a 'parasite' in more advanced cells in the natural environment, mainly protozoa that scavenge organics in biofilm
- ⇒ L. pneumophila growth is optimal when water temperatures are between 70 & 110° F
- ⇒ the organism enters the human host as an airborne mist from cooling towers, pumps, humidifiers, shower heads, etc.
- ⇒ control requires control of the host environment, particularly the formation of biofilm and 'sludge' accumulation



For more information on how to control and reduce your facility's *Legionella* risk, contact your One AquaSource representative.

T O M O R R O W ' S C H E M I S T R Y , T O D A Y

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