



Legionellosis Disease

Why in News?

Recently, a mysterious pneumonia outbreak in Argentina has been identified as Legionellosis.

What is Legionellosis?

- **About:**
 - Legionellosis is a **pneumonia-like illness** that varies in severity from mild febrile illness to a serious and sometimes fatal form of pneumonia.
 - The causative agents are **Legionella bacteria** from water or potting mix.
- **Symptoms:**
 - It included **fever, muscle and abdominal pain and shortness of breath.**
- **Spread:**
 - The disease typically **spreads via inhalation of contaminated aerosols from contaminated water**, which could come from — air conditioning cooling towers, evaporative condensers associated with air conditioning and industrial cooling, hot and cold-water systems, humidifiers and whirlpool spas.
- **Risk Population:**
 - The people who have **comorbidities like hypertension, diabetes, obesity, respiratory problems, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**, or those who follow poor habits like smoking are more prone to the condition.
- **Treatment:**
 - Treatments exist, but there is **no vaccine currently available for Legionnaires' disease.**
 - Patients with Legionnaires' disease always require **antibiotic treatment following diagnosis.**
 - The public health threat posed by legionellosis can be addressed by implementing water safety plans by authorities responsible for building safety or water system safety.

[Source: DTE](#)

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