



JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.  
Health Officer and Director

JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN  
Chief Deputy Director

**Acute Communicable Disease Control**

LAURENE MASCOLA, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
313 North Figueroa Street, Room 212  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
TEL (213) 240-7941 • FAX (213) 482-4856

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February 14, 2011

Dear Event Attendee or Worker:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is contacting persons that were working, attending social gatherings or visiting the Playboy Mansion during the first week of February 2011 to investigate a cluster of respiratory illnesses, including pneumonia. If you had **any respiratory symptoms within the first or second week of February**, we encourage you to contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible for an evaluation. **If you do not have a medical provider please call the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at 213-240-7941** during regular business hours or 213-974-1234 after business hours. There are medications, both for viruses and bacteria that can treat suspected infections.

For your healthcare provider we suggest consideration of the following tests, for individuals with **two or more of the following symptoms**: fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, headache, or muscle pain.

Recommended tests for **all patients** (even if you have recovered):

- Nasopharyngeal swab for viral pathogens
- Rapid influenza swab
- Urine antigen for *Legionella pneumophila*
- Serum serology for *Legionella pneumophila*
- Chest X-ray - if clinically indicated

If patient still has **productive cough**, additional recommended tests:

- Bacterial sputum culture for routine respiratory pathogens
- Sputum culture for *Legionella* for persons
- Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) sputum test for *Legionella pneumophila*

**All laboratory tests will be run free of charge at the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory.**

Please ask the medical provider to store all specimens in the laboratory refrigerator. Please advise your medical provider or laboratory provider for your medical provider to call 213-240-7941 for specimen courier service to the Los Angeles Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible.

If you or your health care provider has any questions or if you do not have a healthcare provider, please call the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at 213-240-7941 (after regular business hours, call 213-974-1234) to speak to the Public Health physician on call.

Sincerely,

Laurene Mascola, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.  
Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program