



U.S. Consulate Merida, Mexico
Consular Section
Warden Message dated January 12, 2011

Outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease
Regency Club Vacation Resort and Wyndham Cozumel Resort & Spa, Cozumel, Mexico

The Centers for Disease Control today issued a news brief regarding an outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease at the Regency Club Vacation Resort and Wyndham Cozumel Resort & Spa (formerly Reef Club Cozumel).

This warning pertains specifically to the above mentioned hotels, not to Cozumel as a whole. There is no generally elevated risk of Legionnaire's Disease in Cozumel, the Yucatan Peninsula, or other parts of Mexico.

Following is the text of the news brief:

“Situation Information

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease is ongoing at the Regency Club Vacation Resort and Wyndham Cozumel Resort & Spa (formerly Reef Club Cozumel) on the island of Cozumel, Mexico. Since May 2008, there have been a total of nine confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease among tourists from the United States and the Netherlands who have stayed at this resort. Based on findings from a public health investigation in April 2010, disinfection of the resort's shared potable water system was recommended. Although measures were taken at the resort to disinfect the water system, in December 2010, CDC was notified of the ninth case associated with the resort, suggesting that there is an ongoing source of exposure.

Recommendations for U.S. Travelers

Legionnaires' disease is a pneumonia caused by inhaling aerosolized water contaminated with *Legionella* bacteria. Legionnaires' disease is not transmitted from person to person. Misty water such as that given off by hot tubs, cooling towers, spray misters, showerheads, and faucets is a common source of *Legionella*.

Travelers at high risk of infection should consider staying at another resort or should avoid exposures to misty water at the Regency Club Vacation Resort and the Wyndham Cozumel Resort & Spa, especially showering. High risk groups include:

- Current or former smokers
- People aged 50 or older
- People with any of the following chronic health conditions:
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic lung disease, such as COPD or emphysema
 - Weakened immune system that might be caused by cancer, organ transplant, certain prescription drugs
 - Other chronic conditions, such as chronic kidney disease, asthma, heart disease, or liver disease

Rarely, people without any risk factors develop Legionnaires' disease after exposure to *Legionella*.

Symptoms begin 2–14 days after exposure and include high fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Many people also have diarrhea, headaches, or muscle aches. Legionnaires' disease can be a severe and fatal illness but most persons will recover with appropriate antibiotic treatment. Travelers who develop these symptoms during their trip or in the 2 weeks following their trip should see a doctor. Travelers seeing a doctor in the United States should be sure to tell the doctor that they have traveled to Cozumel and stayed at the Regency Club Vacation Resort or Wyndham Cozumel Resort & Spa in Mexico. A milder illness caused by the same type of *Legionella* bacteria is called Pontiac fever. The symptoms of Pontiac fever usually last for 2–5 days and may also include fever, headaches, and muscle aches; however, there is no pneumonia. Symptoms of Pontiac fever go away without treatment.

More Information

The *Legionella* bacteria got its name in 1976 when many people who went to a Philadelphia convention of the American Legion suffered from pneumonia (lung infection). Each year, 8,000 to 18,000 people are hospitalized with Legionnaires' disease in the United States. People get Legionnaires' disease when they breathe in a mist or vapor (small droplets of water in the air) that has been contaminated with the bacteria.

For more information about *Legionella*, visit [CDC's Legionellosis Resource Site](#).

For additional information about travel to Mexico, visit the [Mexico Destination Page](#) on CDC's Travelers' Health website."

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the State Department's Internet web site at www.travel.state.gov where the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings and Public Announcements can be found. Up to date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). The State Department's main line can be reached at 1-202-647-4000. American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.

The U.S. Consulate in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, has responsibility for the Mexican States of Quintana Roo, Yucatan, and Campeche. The Consulate can be reached during its regular business hours (M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) by telephone at 999-942-5700; by fax at 999-942-5777; and by email at meridacons@state.gov. After hours, for emergencies involving U.S. citizens, call the Consulate's main number and follow instructions to be connected to the Merida duty officer.

Contact Information

U.S. Consulate Merida

Calle 60 No. 338-K x 29 y 31
Col. Alcala Martin Merida, Yucatan, Mexico 97050
011-52-999-942-5700 (direct dial from the U.S.)
202-250-3711 (Vonage dialing from the U.S.)
01-999-942-5700 (dialing from within Mexico)
942-5700 (dialing from within Merida)
Open Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Consular Agency Cancun

U.S. Consular Agency Cancun
Blvd. Kukulcan Km 13 ZH
Torre La Europea, Despacho 301
Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico C.P. 77500
011-52-998-883-0272 (direct dial from the U.S.)
202-640-2511 (Vonage dialing from the U.S.)
01-998-883-0272 (dialing from outside Cancun but within Mexico)
883-0272 (dialing from within Cancun)
Open Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Consular Agency Cozumel

Plaza Villa Mar en el Centro, Plaza Principal, (Parque Juárez between Melgar and 5th Avenue)
2nd floor, locales #8 and 9, Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

011-52-987-872-4574 (direct dial from the U.S.)
202-459-4661 (Vonage dialing from the U.S.)
01-987-872-4574 (dialing from outside Cozumel but within Mexico)
872-4574 (dialing from within Cozumel)
Open Monday – Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Consular Agency Playa del Carmen

Plaza Villa Mar en el Centro, Plaza Principal, (Parque Juárez between Melgar and 5th Avenue)
2nd floor, locales #8 and 9, Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico).
011-52-984-873-0303 (direct dial from the U.S.)
202-370-6708 (Vonage dialing from the U.S.)
01-984-873-0303 (dialing from outside Playa Del Carmen but within Mexico)
Open Monday – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Local Authorities (Police, Fire, Ambulance)

Dial 066