



# MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

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Dr. John B. Endres, President of Board of Health

## NEWS Release

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### **Facilities with AC Cooling Towers Required to Register with the New State Department of Health to Prevent Legionnaires' Disease**

The NYS Department of Health released new regulations affecting air conditioner cooling towers and recirculated water systems. The new regulations are intended to protect the public's health by preventing community outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease, similar to the outbreak which recently occurred in New York City.

The regulation applies to all owners of cooling towers, evaporative condensers or fluid coolers that are part of a recirculated water system incorporated into a building's cooling, industrial process, refrigeration or energy production system.

"The new regulation is now part of the State Sanitary Code, which is enforced by the Environmental Health Division of the County Health Department in Madison County. All owners of facilities with cooling towers are required to register, sample and inspect such equipment by September 16, 2015," said Eric Faisst, Madison County Public Health Director. "The state also requires owners to periodically report inspection and certification to a statewide information system, and report information concerning any disinfection that occurs. Any cooling tower found to have Legionella present must have it disinfected by a licensed commercial pesticide applicator."

Registration and reports must be submitted electronically through the following website:  
<http://www.ny.gov/services/register-cooling-tower-and-submit-reports>.

The State Department of Health is providing free Legionella testing kits until the beginning of October. Cooling tower owners may obtain a test kit by emailing [Legionella@health.ny.gov](mailto:Legionella@health.ny.gov) or by calling the department's Legionella Call Center, at 1-888-769-7243.

Click on <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/legionellosis/>, to find additional information about the signs and symptoms of Legionnaire's disease, the new emergency regulation, how to register and submit reports, and specific information for hospitals and nursing homes.

For more information about the new cooling tower regulations, contact the Madison County Health Department, Division of Environmental Health, at 315-366-2526, or visit [www.healthymadisoncounty.org](http://www.healthymadisoncounty.org).

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