Legionellosis is usually an acute respiratory tract infection that begins two to 14 days after exposure to *Legionella* spp. Signs of the disease can include a high fever, chills and cough, in addition to head and muscle aches. Since symptoms are similar to those seen in other forms of pneumonia, the diagnosis is rarely obvious and can be difficult to make. Available confirmatory diagnostic tests include urine antigen detection, direct fluorescent antibody staining, and culture.

“Pontiac Fever,” a milder illness associated with *Legionella* bacteria, is characterized by fever and myalgias without pneumonia. It typically occurs a few hours to two days after exposure.

*Legionella* bacteria are found naturally in the environment, usually in water, and grow best in warm conditions such as hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems, or the air-conditioning systems of large buildings. Person-to-person transmission does not occur.

Risks for infection include older age, smoking, chronic lung disease (like emphysema), renal insufficiency, diabetes and immune deficiency. Death occurs in 10% to 15% of cases; a substantially higher proportion of fatal cases occur during nosocomial outbreaks.

Legionellosis became officially reportable in Oregon in 2001. In 2010, 18 cases of legionellosis were reported among Oregonians, the same as the number of cases reported in 2008 and 2009. All 18 cases reported in 2010 were hospitalized. There was one death.
Legionellosis by year: Oregon, 2002–2010

Incidence of legionellosis: Oregon vs. nationwide, 2000–2010
Incidence of legionellosis by county of residence: Oregon, 2000–2010

The map shows the cases per 100,000 population for each county in Oregon, with shades indicating the incidence ranges:

- Light gray for 0.0 cases per 100,000
- Light green for 0.1 - 0.2 cases per 100,000
- Medium green for 0.3 - 0.5 cases per 100,000
- Dark green for 0.6 - 0.9 cases per 100,000
- Navy blue for 1.0 - 1.3 cases per 100,000

Counties with darker shades have higher incidences of legionellosis.