



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2026

**STATEMENT FROM NYC HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. ALISTER F. MARTIN UPDATING
NEW YORKERS ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE COMMUNITY
CLUSTER**

NEW YORK, NY — New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Alister F. Martin issued the following statement updating New Yorkers on the Legionnaires' disease community cluster investigation on the Upper East Side:

"As of today, the NYC Health Department has ordered 76 buildings to clean and disinfect their cooling towers as part of our investigation into a community cluster of Legionnaires' disease cases on the Upper East Side. Of those, 57 buildings have confirmed they have already completed the required remediation, and 19 are required to complete remediation process by Thursday, July 16. It remains safe to use air conditioners and cooling centers in the affected ZIP codes. It is also safe to shower and drink tap water. There is no additional risk associated with being inside one of these buildings. An updated list of buildings is now available on the NYC Health Department [website](#).

The NYC Health Department has sampled a total of 183 cooling towers in the affected ZIP codes and completed all initial screening tests (PCR tests) for the type of *Legionella* bacteria that can cause Legionnaires' disease. There are no outstanding cooling tower PCR screening test results at this time. All 183 cooling towers are also being tested using a culture method, which will confirm which cooling towers contained live *Legionella* bacteria capable of causing infection. But rather than waiting to detect live bacteria, we have moved quickly and ordered all buildings with an initial positive PCR test result to clean and disinfect their cooling towers.

We are inspecting every building with a positive PCR test for the presence of live or dead *Legionella* bacteria. We will issue violations to building owners found not to have been properly maintaining their cooling towers.

Legionnaires' disease is extremely rare, particularly in children, and most people who have already been exposed will not become ill. To date, this investigation has confirmed 60 cases of Legionnaires' disease.

For people who do get sick, Legionnaires' disease can cause severe illness and even death, which is why we respond rapidly and aggressively, and recommend seeing a doctor right away if you have been to the area and develop any flu-like symptoms. People at an increased risk include adults ages 50 and older, people who smoke or vape, those with chronic lung disease, people with weakened immune systems.

In addition to buildings that tested PCR-positive, the updated list includes one previously unregistered cooling tower system identified during this investigation. This cooling tower is on a new residential building, has been reported to be in operation since the building's construction, and, during our investigation, was reported to be active. The building was required to register its cooling tower system immediately, and the Health Department's scientists inspected, finding it to be out of compliance with local regulations. The Health Department cited the building with 11 violations. Although the building's cooling tower system tested PCR-negative, the Health Department ordered the building's owner complete a full clean and disinfection to meet the requirements of New York City cooling tower regulations, and the owner complied.

As we said when we [released a preliminary list of buildings under order to clean and disinfect](#), PCR screening test results do not confirm the presence of live *Legionella* bacteria, which must be present to get people sick, and buildings will be crossed off our list through confirmatory (culture) testing results expected over the coming weeks. These results will confirm which cooling tower samples had live *Legionella* bacteria at the time the sample was collected and could have caused Legionnaires' disease.

The Mamdani administration is committed to providing an unprecedented level of transparency into this investigation. We will continue to keep New Yorkers up to date on key details until our investigation is complete.”

Additional buildings with a positive PCR test result that have completed remediation:

1130 FIFTH AVENUE

1150 MADISON AVENUE

1239 MADISON AVENUE

1275 MADISON AVENUE

1020 PARK AVENUE

1157 LEXINGTON AVENUE

1755 YORK AVENUE
60 EAST END AVENUE
188 EAST 78TH STREET
200 EAST 78TH STREET
124 EAST 79TH STREET
201 EAST 79TH STREET
211 EAST 79TH STREET
511 EAST 80TH STREET
444 EAST 82ND STREET
500 EAST 83RD STREET
7 EAST 86TH STREET
401 EAST 86TH STREET
444 EAST 86TH STREET
445 EAST 86TH STREET
51 EAST 87TH STREET
9 EAST 90TH STREET
410 EAST 92ND STREET
40 EAST 94TH STREET

Additional buildings with a positive PCR test that are ordered to complete remediation by Thursday, July 16:

980 FIFTH AVENUE
1000 FIFTH AVENUE
920 PARK AVENUE
1249 PARK AVENUE
1025 MADISON AVENUE

1381 LEXINGTON AVENUE

1513 FIRST AVENUE

1520 YORK AVENUE

80 EAST END AVENUE

90 EAST END AVENUE

100 EAST END AVENUE

155 EAST 79TH STREET

40 EAST 80TH STREET

25 EAST 83RD STREET

13 EAST 84TH STREET

40 EAST 84TH STREET

108 EAST 89TH STREET

22 EAST 91ST STREET

200 EAST 95TH STREET

235 EAST 95TH STREET

Unregistered cooling tower systems sampled as part of this investigation that has completed remediation:

300 EAST 83RD STREET

Full list of buildings available at nyc.gov/legionnaires

###