

## Long-Term Care Survey Alert

### **Infection Control LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE STRIKES PHILADELPHIA NURSING HOME**

Legionnaires' disease has reared its ugly head again, this time in a suburban Philadelphia nursing home. Eight elderly residents and one employee of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life in the Philadelphia suburb of Horsham have been diagnosed with the disease. Two residents, including a 102-year-old woman, have died, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer. All of the ill residents lived on the same wing of the facility, which only opened last October.

The disease is caused by the Legionella bacteria which is found in sources of aerosolized water such as air conditioning systems, shower heads, hot tubs and hot water heaters. The infection, which is fatal in 5 to 15 percent of reported cases, normally responds to antibiotic therapy. Symptoms include fever, nonproductive cough and a flu-like syndrome.