

State deploys teams in NYC to test for Legionella bacteria

August 8 2015, by Jonathan Lemire

State officials are deploying 150 trained workers to test cooling towers in the borough of the Bronx for traces of Legionnaires' disease amid the largest outbreak in New York City's history.

Ten people have died and 101 have been sickened.

The bacteria were found in five buildings within a few blocks of one another in the South Bronx.

The victims were adults with underlying medical conditions. The disease is a form of pneumonia caused by breathing in mist contaminated with the Legionella bacteria.

State officials stress that they're working in conjunction with the city health department.

But their presence in the Bronx comes a day after the long-simmering feud between Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio ignited again over their administrations' response to the outbreak.

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