

## 4 infected with Legionnaires' disease at Selfridge air base

BY GINA DAMRON  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Four cases of Legionnaires' disease have been confirmed following an outbreak at Selfridge Air **National Guard** Base in Harrison Township, officials said Monday during a news conference.

Officials also said a fifth person is believed to have the disease, which is caused by a bacteria that grows best in warm water, such as the kind found in cooling towers, large plumbing systems or air-conditioning systems, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Three of the confirmed cases involve employees from Warren-based TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, a U.S. Army weapons researcher and developer, and one is from the 127th Wing, **Michigan** Air National Guard, said John Ambrose, an epidemiologist with the U.S. Army Public Health Command. The fifth person believed to have the disease also is from TACOM, he said.

Maj. Gen. Kurt Stein, with TACOM, said two people were hospitalized, but one person could have been released Monday.

Brig. Gen. Michael Peplinski, commander of the 127th Wing, said the other person hospitalized was in critical condition Monday.

The main source of the bacteria hasn't been identified and results from air and water tests are still pending, Ambrose said.

The two buildings confirmed to have the disease have been cleaned and sanitized, but are still closed, officials said.

More than 30 people were sickened during the outbreak in July. Ambrose couldn't update the number of ill workers, but said people are being asked to go to their physicians if they feel ill.

Contact GINA DAMRON: 586-826-7269

or [gdamron@freepress.com](mailto:gdamron@freepress.com)