

# Floors likely to reopen Monday at Grady

## Hospital makes changes in wake of Legionnaires'

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Monday, March 02, 2009

Grady Memorial Hospital expects to reopen some areas today that were contaminated with Legionnaires' disease, while implementing \$700,000 in measures to prevent another outbreak, hospital officials said.

Hospital officials said they could not definitively determine whether the four patients with the disease acquired it in the hospital. But widespread testing pinpointed high concentrations of Legionella bacteria in the patient areas of the 11th and 12th floors of the A tower, where those patients were staying, said hospital spokesman Matt Gove.

Those patients have been successfully treated with antibiotics and have been discharged, he said.

Testing traced the contamination to the hospital water system in those patient areas.

"... Together, the new precautions, testing and consultant fees will range in cost from \$600,000 to \$700,000, officials said."

Grady's handling of the problem drew praise from the state Division of Public Health, which, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, worked with the hospital on the problem.

Dr. Susan Lance, an epidemiologist with the state health division, said the agency has asked Grady to document its response to the outbreak to assist other facilities that may develop the problem.

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