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**Date:** Wed, 30 Sep 2015 15:38:59 -0400

**Subject:** pool report

Mayor Bill de Blasio visited the Morris Park Association, a senior center in the Morris Park section of the Bronx, to talk about a Legionnaires' outbreak in the area. He arrived at 1:33 pm. He was with Health Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett, Bronx Councilman Jimmy Vacca, Bronx Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Bronx Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, and Bronx Assemblyman Marcos Crespo. State Senator Jeff Klein sent his chief of staff.

More than two dozen seniors were playing bingo when the mayor arrived. He walked around the room and schmoozed a bit with some seniors. He then went to the front of the room with Dr. Bassett and the elected officials. He made some news: there are 13 diagnosed cases of Legionnaires' and 1 person has died. De Blasio sought to reassure everyone by telling them the 1 person had underlying medical conditions. He and Dr. Bassett said there are no new cases since September 21. 9 are in the hospital and 3 have been released. De Blasio urged everyone to go to the doctor immediately if they have the flu-like symptoms. This message was stressed again and again.

Some more numbers: 35 cooling towers were tested in the Morris Park area for Legionnaires'. 15 came back positive. DOH doesn't know yet where exactly this outbreak came from. They said that since City Council legislation was passed that mandated the testing and cleaning of cooling towers, all of these towers were previously cleaned and have been since cleaned again following the positive tests. Dr. Bassett said Legionnaires' thriving in warm weather can be blamed for the new outbreak.

De Blasio repeatedly said the City Council legislation is the "strongest in the country."

De Blasio and Dr. Bassett stressed this is a much more "limited" and different outbreak than what we saw in the South Bronx. This is "different than what we experienced a couple of weeks back in the South Bronx. This is a much more limited situation," de Blasio said.

"13 people in the broader Morris Park area contracted Legionnaires. Now the good news of that is none of those cases are new since September 21. This is very, very important," he said. "We're going to be very vigilant, be very careful." He said these were "very hopeful signs" and said there wasn't any uptick in pneumonia or flu cases in emergency rooms.

"We haven't had anybody in this small cluster which now stands at 13 people, who has gotten sick through Legionnaires' since September 21, so nine days ago," Dr. Bassett said. "So we're monitoring the situation and every cooling tower that we had any concerns about has been or is in the process of being addressed. So I really think you can have confidence we've taken a vigorous approach to both looking out for these little clusters and taking action to ensure that the community's health is protected."

There were some lighter moments of the visit. The mayor noted Benedetto had come to the senior center despite being sick. With a smile, he refused to give Benedetto the microphone when he spoke. Benedetto spoke loud enough without it.

All the elected officials praised the city's response to this latest outbreak. During a question and answer session with seniors afterwards (reporters were not allowed to ask questions), Benedetto did wonder how the city could be urging residents to go hospitals immediately when Legionnaires' was found in the cooling towers of local hospitals.

De Blasio noted in the South Bronx outbreak that Legionnaires' was found at Lincoln Hospital and no one got sick at the hospital from their infected cooling towers.

"This is an absolute fact. The danger is not getting medical attention. That is the singular danger," he said. "If I said to you, 'you got a cut and you're bleeding.' Now if you were worried about the band-aid but maybe the band aid was dirty so I'm not going to put a band-aid on, you just had bleeding, you know that would be a danger, right? So eventually you say wait a minute, I'm gonna find a way to get the right band-aid because I've gotta stop the bleeding. This is the same thing."

Dr. Bassett said during the q&a that even a decade ago, this Morris Park cluster might not have been noticed because detection methods today are much better. "We are watching so carefully and we're seeing it so often," she said.

Crespo, who represents the Soundview neighborhood that was hit by the last deadly outbreak, said the city is very efficient at providing up to the minute numbers about Legionnaires', making things seem more confusing and chaotic than they are.

"We got some figures. Now, just a few hours later, you're getting something else. That's a testament to the efficient efforts of the city, the administration, the Health Department and all of the departments to make sure that every aspect of this is being looked at," he said.

De Blasio departed at 2:18 pm.

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