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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shannon Lands, PIO (419) 213-4143

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Legionella Awareness for Lucas County

As the temperatures rise in Lucas County, many air conditioning units and cooling towers are running continuously. The Toledo- Lucas County Health Department encourages effective treatment for these types of cooling systems and other sources of *Legionella*, through proper maintenance and disinfectants.

Over the last few years, several *Legionella* cases have been linked to either cooling towers or hot tub use and proximity during the incubation period. It is important to properly maintain these types of systems and others to limit the possibility of a *Legionella* issue. Legionnaires' disease (LD) is on the rise. Ohio leads the country in reported LD cases with a 50% increase in cases from 2017 to 2018.

Legionnaires' disease is a serious type of lung infection (pneumonia) that people can get by breathing in small droplets of water contaminated with *Legionella*, with an incubation period of one to two weeks before LD symptom onset. Most people who get sick need hospital care and make a full recovery—but about 1 in 10 people will die from the infection.

Most healthy people do not get LD after being exposed to *Legionella*. People at increased risk of LD are 50 years of age or older and have certain risk factors, such as being a current or former smoker, having a chronic lung disease, or having a weakened immune system.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Environmental Health Division at 419-213-4100 extension 3 or visit lucascountyhealth.com.

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