

Legionnaires’ disease cases probed in KY

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky, (KT) – The Franklin County Health Department (FCHD) reports they are currently investigating several confirmed cases of Legionnaires’ disease in Franklin County.

Although the number of cases remains low, FCHD’s Environmental and Epidemiology teams are working closely with the Kentucky Department for Public Health and community partners to determine whether there are any common

exposures or sources.

The risk of Legionnaires’ disease to the public is low. Legionnaires’ disease is not contagious and is not known to spread from person to person. This illness is caused by exposure to Legionella bacteria. Most people who are exposed to Legionella bacteria do not get sick. Those who develop Legionnaires’ disease usually recover after taking antibiotics as prescribed.

Legionella bacteria occur naturally in water and can be found in both natural

water sources, such as streams and ground-water, and man-made water systems. Any system or device containing nonsterile water has the potential to support Legionella growth. The bacteria thrive in large, complex water systems, particularly those with extensive plumbing networks, water heaters, storage tanks, stagnant water or inconsistent maintenance. These conditions are more commonly found in large buildings with complex plumbing systems.

People can develop Legionnaires’ disease, a serious form of pneumonia, or Pontiac Fever, a milder respiratory illness, after breathing in small water droplets (mist) containing Legionella bacteria.

Those at increased risk for Legionnaires’ disease are adults age 50 and older, current and former smokers, people with chronic lung disease, those with weakened immune systems due to conditions such as diabetes, cancer, or cancer treatment, people with certain

underlying medical conditions, including kidney or liver disease.

Symptoms of Legionnaires’ disease include fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headaches and pneumonia, which requires hospitalization.

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should contact their healthcare provider for evaluation and possible testing.

To reduce your risk, regularly clean and disinfect household devices that produce water mist, such as showerheads, misters, humidifiers and hot

tubs; flush faucets and showerheads that have not been used for a week or longer, or after noticing a significant drop in water pressure, before using them again; set your water heater to 140°F and regularly flush it according to manufacturer’s recommendations; clean and maintain devices that use water, including CPAP equipment, tubing, neti pots and nasal rinse devices, according to manufacturer’s instructions.

Col. Sanders’ auction brings in \$300,000

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

SHELBYVILLE, Ky. (KT) – The historic auction of Colonel Harland Sanders’ personal collection generated just shy of \$300,000 in sales, with more than 100 artifacts sold across 74 lots to collectors, historians, entrepreneurs, and fans around the world.

Held July 28 at the Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville, the auction attracted more than 500

bidders, both in person and online. The collection, preserved by the Settle family since their 1974 purchase of Blackwood Hall and the Claudia Sanders Dinner House directly from Colonel and Claudia Sanders, offered rare personal artifacts spanning Sanders’ life, business career, and legacy.

The top-selling item was Col. Sanders’ Personal Handwritten Datebook and Working Planner, which sold for \$30,000. Far more than a simple

appointment book, the planner served as Sanders’ personal working notebook in 1964, documenting observations, expenses, travel details, meals, business notes, and other aspects of his daily activities.

A handwritten page in the planner, listing eleven ingredients and their associated measurements, later attracted significant public attention, becoming the subject of widespread media coverage and legal review. Regardless

of interpretation, the page contributed to the planner’s notoriety and historical significance within the broader story of Colonel Sanders and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Other top-selling items of Sanders included:

His Kentucky Colonel Commission Certificate (1955), \$23,000.

His Personal Mondia Stellaris Automatic Wristwatch, \$20,000.

His Personal Mirror-Matic Pressure Cooker, \$11,500.

A U.S. Patent Office Publication “Process of Producing Fried Chicken Under Pressure,” \$10,000.

His Personal Bow Tie and Suspenders, \$8,000.

His Personal Masonic Ring with Inscription, 10k Gold, \$8,000.

“The response exceeded our expectations,” said Bill Menish, lead auctioneer for the sale.

“Collectors, historians, franchise operators, and Colonel Sanders enthusiasts recognized that this

wasn’t simply a memorabilia auction—it was an opportunity to acquire artifacts that remained together through an extraordinary chain of ownership.

While the memorabilia has been sold, sealed bids are still being accepted for the purchase of the historic Claudia Sanders Restaurant, Blackwood Hall, and associated business assets. Bids will be accepted through midnight on July 31, 2026.

AG asks for courts to uphold convictions in Crystal Rogers case

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Attorney General Russell Coleman is asking Kentucky’s appellate courts to uphold the convictions of two men sentenced for their involvement in the disappearance and death of Crystal Rogers, who was last seen alive on July 3, 2015.

Last year, Steve

Lawson, 55, was sentenced to 17 years in prison, while Joey Lawson, 35, received a 25-year sentence. Separate juries convicted the two men on charges of conspiracy to commit murder and tampering with physical evidence,

In April, Joey Lawson filed an appeal with the Kentucky Supreme Court to have his conviction overturned. Steve

Lawson appealed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals in May.

In response, Coleman filed briefs arguing in support of the substantial proof presented against both men at their trials last year in Warren County. The brief in the Steve Lawson case details the key role Lawson played in facilitating her murder: “Steve didn’t just agree to help, he

delivered.”

Joey Lawson, the brief reads was, “...a conspirator in Crystal’s death and disappearance, his guilt is Houck’s guilt.”

“The convictions of these men brought long-awaited accountability and justice to the Rogers and Ballard families, after nearly a decade of waiting,” Coleman said. “The defendants can no longer evade

justice.”

Hardin County Commonwealth’s Attorney Shane Young served as the special prosecutor in the trials. Kentucky Solicitor General Matt Kuhn, Principal Deputy Solicitor General Jack Heyburn, and Deputy Solicitor General Shawn Chapman filed the appellate briefs on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Brooks Houck, who

was dating Rogers at the time of her disappearance, was convicted of murder. In January, he filed an appeal with the Kentucky Supreme Court to have his conviction overturned. Earlier this year, the Attorney General’s office filed a brief urging the courts to uphold his life sentence.



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