COVID-19 and Lead Poisoning: Debunking the Myth

Trisha Gupte
*Wayne State University School Of Medicine, hd9080@wayne.edu*

Nyla Leonardi
*Wayne State University School Of Medicine, hf4687@wayne.edu*

James Montgomery
*Wayne State University School Of Medicine, hf9218@wayne.edu*

K. Washington
*Wayne State University School Of Medicine*

Taylor Barrow
*Wayne State University School Of Medicine, ez3455@wayne.edu*

*See next page for additional authors*

Creative Commons License:

This work is licensed under a *No Rights Reserved* license.

**Recommended Citation**


This Infographic is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Source Medicine at DigitalCommons@WayneState. It has been accepted for inclusion in COVID-19 Medical Myth Infographics by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@WayneState.
COVID-19 and Lead Poisoning: Debunking the Myth

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/covidinfographics

Part of the Curriculum and Instruction Commons, Medical Education Commons, and the Public Health Commons

Authors
Trisha Gupte, Nyla Leonardi, James Montgomery, K. Washington, Taylor Barrow, and Hassan Elshebiny
COVID-19 does not affect everyone equally. Communities already facing healthcare crises like Flint, MI may face higher co-infections of COVID-19 and Legionnaire's Disease.

**What is COVID-19?**
COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that became a worldwide pandemic in early 2020. It has infected more than 50 million people worldwide. People often have flu-like symptoms but in some cases it can escalate and be much more severe or even fatal.

**What is Legionnaire’s Disease?**
When there is a buildup of lead in water, the corrosive conditions can lead to growth of the bacteria Legionella pneumophila. This causes infection of Legionnaire’s Disease which can cause respiratory problems for people infected with it.

### Flint Water Crisis
In April 2014 the leaders of Flint decided to switch the water supply for the city to come directly from the Flint river. The Flint river treatment plant is a small plant that was not able to treat the water effectively to clean lead out of it which resulted in growth of Legionella pneumophila.

### Flint and COVID-19
Flint is still dealing with contaminated water and does not have the resources to deal with both crises. COVID cases have been high in Flint and having COVID can make individuals more susceptible to Legionnaire’s Disease.

### What can you do to protect yourself
For COVID-19, ensure that you wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep at least six feet distance from others in public space. To protect from lead poisoning, if your home has lead-based paint, check regularly for peeling paint and fix problems promptly.

---

Prepared by the students from

**ORANGE 29**

GUPTE, T., LEONARDI, N., MONTOMGERY, C., WASHINGTON, K., BARROW, T., ELSHEBINY, H.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE