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## Two get Legionnaires' on cruise

**Two cruise passengers have tested positive for Legionnaires' disease after being taken ill from their ship in Sweden.**

The cases were confirmed as the Black Watch vessel docked at the Port of Dover, in Kent, on Monday night, two days earlier than planned.

A total of seven people complained of flu-like symptoms on Friday and five were taken to hospital in Stockholm.

The ship itself has so far shown no traces of legionella bacteria.

The Black Watch - part of Ipswich-based Fred Olsen Cruise Lines - is being deep cleaned before its next scheduled sailing, on Wednesday to Portugal.

### No showers

The 756 passengers, who were mostly British, had stopped at ports in Russia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden before their excursion was cut short.

They disembarked at Dover at about 2100 BST on Monday.

Breda Somers, from Kilkenny in Ireland, said: "After a meeting with the captain we were all asked not to have showers so we washed the old-fashioned way using a basin."

Betty Bennett, an 82-year-old from Oxford, said she would see her doctor on Tuesday after she coughed up some blood.

She said: "I'm fine now. They wanted me to go to hospital in Dover but I wouldn't."

Passengers have been offered a 25% discount on the total cost of their holiday.

Of the five people taken to hospital in Stockholm, one woman remains there but she was not one of the Legionnaires sufferers.

Two people went to hospital in Ashford, Kent, as a precaution on Monday night.

Mike Rodwell, from Fred Olsen Cruise Lines, said: "We're investigating with the health protection agency and taking advice on how best to track down the source of this problem.

"Of course it could have been a shore-based problem or it could have been associated with our vessel."

Dr Mathi Chandrakumar, from the Kent Health Protection Unit, has been on board the Black Watch while it is berthed at Dover.

"They've taken all the necessary steps on our advice and I'm satisfied everything is being done," he said.

The cleaning operation will involve full chlorination of the water system, and the ship's shower heads, saunas and swimming pools being sanitised.



The Black Watch had been taking passengers on a 17-night cruise

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Mike Rodwell, Fred Olsen Cruise Lines