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mysterious legionnaires disease  
now has killed 27 persons, but a  
health official indicates the search  
for its cause has slowed since there  
is no apparent threat of contagion.

That search takes a new turn  
tonight, toward American Legion  
members who escaped illness  
during the July 21-24 convention.  
They will be asked to fill out  
questionnaires to help scientists try  
to find some common link that did  
not exist for the dead and ill.

"We're getting to the stage where  
this is going to be a long, drawn-out  
investigation and we've got  
to...carry out our normal  
programs," Leonard Bachman,  
Pennsylvania health secretary, told  
a press conference Sunday.

"As long as we see no new onsets  
and no secondary infections, the  
time pressure is not on us as much  
as it was in the early days when we  
didn't know the impact on the rest of  
the population."

If necessary, he said, he will ask  
the state legislature when it returns  
in September to fund a fulltime  
investigative medical team.

The two latest victims were men  
in their 60s. Bachman said there still  
are critical cases among the other  
125 persons stricken by the ailment.

Dennis Boyle, 60, of Hazleton and  
Harold Davis, 66, of Philadelphia  
died Sunday.

While scientists pursue the  
possibility that a toxin or poison  
may have caused the deaths, state  
health officials are sending

to legion meetings  
across the state tonight, delivering

questionnaires to the legion members who stayed healthy.

The list of 23 questions includes the following:

-What times of the day during Friday July 23 were you at the Bellevue-Stratford and Benjamin Franklin hotels or on the sidewalk outside?

-Did you drink coffee or eat pastry at the Friday morning go-getter's breakfast?

-Did you buy anything from a street vendor?

-Did you use ice? Where did you get it? Was it cubes or block?

There were also questions about souvenir packs and what the legionnaires drank.

Investigators found no common link to the illness when they asked similar questions of the sick and families of the dead.

"We're trying to get a very detailed profile of all the conventioners and what they did at the convention to try to make a physical comparison of those that became ill and those who didn't," Bachman said.

Although he would not say which days the investigation would focus on, Bachman said he felt the search could be restricted to a single day. .

Nine persons became ill after attending the convention for one day, July 23. But some legionnaires arrived a day before the convention began, and others met in other cities before arriving in Philadelphia.