



# THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

## MEMORANDUM

Date: June 29, 2018

To: All QHS Employees and Staff

From: Leslie Chun, M.D., Chief Medical Officer & Chief Quality Officer

Subject: Legionella Update #2

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Aloha,

We wanted to provide you with an update since our last communication regarding Legionella.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to work closely with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address this important issue. We are very grateful to the DOH and CDC for their partnership and guidance. While there have been no new cases of Legionellosis at Queen's, we continue to have a keen focus with our partners on how we can best ensure our patients, staff, physicians, and visitors continue to be safe here at Queen's.

We want to reiterate that healthy individuals can continue to use and drink the water on campus. Legionella is spread through water that has been aerosolized (i.e. water that has become airborne through spraying, misting, splashing, etc.). It is most likely to occur in people who have weakened immune systems. It is not readily transmissible from person to person. Legionella is found in water and soil, and most people exposed to the bacteria do not become ill.

We have taken a number of precautionary measures from day one and are taking a number of other measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. These include:

- Increased chlorination of water
- Increased surveillance water cultures and testing in conjunction with DOH and water experts
- Removal and/or replacement of laminar flow devices on faucets
- Scheduled running of showers and faucets as part of routine room cleaning
- Replacement of all shower heads hospital-wide
- The installation of point of care filters for faucets and shower heads in our highest risk areas



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- Increase in water systems management through a contract with a leading provider of water treatment and process improvement
- Extensive inspection of our water and air systems by DOH

We have also proactively asked all health care providers to take additional precautions with patients who are at greatest risk of contracting Legionellosis. We continue to recommend that exposure to tap water while at Queen's be avoided in the following highest risk patients:

- Patients on chemotherapy
- Patients with neutropenia
- Patients with lymphocytopenia
- Transplant patients
- Patients with severe chronic lung disease
- Patients with AIDS with uncontrolled viral load
- Patients with hematologic malignancy
- Patients on high dose steroids or other drugs that impair cell-mediated immunity

These patients should avoid tap water in the following:

- Water fountains
- Ice from ice machines on units
- Used for drinking, baths/showers, tooth brushing, wound care, sinus rinses, and/or contact lens cleaning or insertion
- Toilet flushing – instead, patients should call for a nurse or nurse's aide to assist, and be outside of the bathroom with the door closed when flushing occurs

Bottled water and bath kits should continue to be provided to these patients as an alternative.

In order to alleviate any anxiety or concerns, we are asking that you readily accommodate requests from any patient, family member or visitor to take advantage of our added precautions (i.e. bottled water, bathing kits, etc.).

To help keep you informed, we have also created a "Legionella" resource page on our Intranet site for Legionella related issues and information:

<http://eww.queens.org/ic/legionella.html>

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control Department at 691-4226.**



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Thank you for your continued efforts in helping us to protect our patients, staff and visitors, while providing the highest quality of care here at Queen's.

Mahalo,  
Leslie Chun, MD  
Chief Medical Officer & Chief Quality Officer

Mimi Harris, RN  
Chief Nursing Officer