



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 23, 2018

To: All QMC-Punchbowl Staff

From: Leslie Chun, M.D., Chief Medical Officer & Chief Quality Officer
Mimi Harris RN, Chief Nursing Officer
Erlaine Bello, M.D., Chair, Infection Prevention and Control Committee

Subject: Legionella Update #3

Aloha,

We wanted to share some updates since our last communication regarding Legionella.

Thanks to many of you, here are some of the things we've accomplished to address this important issue in recent days.

- 100% of the shower heads in patient care areas have been replaced
- Point of use filters have been installed on showers and faucets in high-risk patient areas
- Laminar flow devices have been replaced or removed in patient care areas
- Nalco, an internationally recognized water treatment company, was on site last week at The Queen's Medical Center-Punchbowl campus and provided comprehensive recommendations to our existing water management plan
- One of their recommendations is to increase chlorination of our water which we will be doing in the coming days
- We are also working hard to bring our ice machines back into operations. Once we have installed a new type of water filter, our ice machines will be back in operation

Thank you again 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). We very much appreciate the partnership and guidance of these agencies, and while there are no new cases of Legionellosis suspected of being acquired 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.

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



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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.

From day one, we have taken a number of precautionary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. We have also proactively asked all health care providers to take additional precautions with patients who are at greatest risk of contracting Legionellosis.

High risk patients can now use the showers and water from sinks as long as there is a filter.

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.

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.