

**In Re: Response to Legionella Outbreak****DIRECTOR'S ADJUDICATION ORDER**

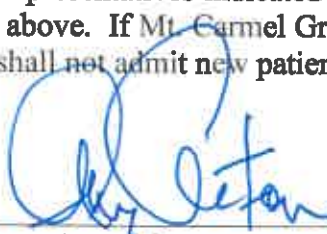
I, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), pursuant to R.C. 3701.14 shall investigate or make inquiry as to the cause of disease or illness, including contagious, infectious, epidemic, pandemic, or endemic conditions, and take prompt action to control and suppress it. To this end, "The department of health shall have supervision of all matters relating to the preservation of the life and health of the people...." R.C. 3701.13. Further, "The department may make special or standing orders or rules...for preventing the spread of contagious or infectious diseases...." R.C. 3701.13.

The Franklin County Public Health ("Franklin County") has documented six (6) cases of Legionnaires' disease (LD) from May 12, 2019 to date. These cases include patients of the Mt. Carmel Grove City healthcare facility located at 5300 North Meadows Dr., Grove City, Ohio. ODH and Franklin County investigated and found the following:

1. On May 31, 2019, ODH identified a cluster of LD cases associated with obtaining treatment at Mt. Carmel Grove City. ODH and Franklin County contacted Mt. Carmel Grove City regarding these cases.
2. LD is serious type of pneumonia caused by the bacterium *Legionella pneumophila*. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, LD has a twenty-five percent mortality rate when acquired in a healthcare facility.
3. Mt. Carmel Grove City operates a 200-bed, 7-floor facility in Grove City, Ohio that opened on April 28, 2019. The first LD case stayed at the facility between April 29, 2019 through May 7, 2019. Five subsequent cases stayed at the facility from May 8 through May 20, 2019. Onset dates of LD cases ranged from May 12, 2019 to May 29, 2019 and were confirmed through urine antigen testing.
4. Mt. Carmel Grove City has provided information on disinfection of water lines prior to the initially planned opening in February 2019 but was unable to confirm that additional disinfection of the water systems was performed prior to opening of the facility on April 28, 2019. On May 31, 2019, Mt. Carmel Grove City provided verbal information on water testing for *Legionella* on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, and the Emergency Department that occurred between the dates of May 23, 2019 to present. Initial test results confirmed the presence of *Legionella* at 20 colony forming units (cfu) on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor and the detection of *Legionella* through PCR testing in the Emergency Department.

5. Via conversation with Mt. Carmel Grove City on May 31, 2109, ODH advised that the facility immediately flush all hot and cold water lines and fixtures throughout the entire facility, implement immediate remediation practices to disinfect the hot and cold water lines and fixtures, test and clean all ice machines, ensure the two on-site cooling towers are cleaned and serviced, provide testing results, their water management plan, and related facility information. ODH informed Mt. Carmel Grove City of the CDC recommendations for remediation and immediate control measures to implement during an outbreak.

Accordingly, based on the information gathered to date by Franklin County, disease surveillance by ODH, and information shared with ODH by Mt. Carmel representatives, I hereby **ORDER** Mt. Carmel Grove City to immediately flush all hot and cold water lines and fixtures throughout the entire facility, to implement immediate remediation measures, including but not limited to thermal or chemical disinfection, notify all employees, visitors, and patients of the outbreak of LD, and implement water restrictions to prevent exposure to aerosols upon receipt of this order until all actions listed above are implemented and Legionella is no longer present in the hot and cold water distribution systems. On May 31, 2019, Mt. Carmel representatives indicated that the facility is or will be immediately be implementing the actions detailed above. If Mt. Carmel Grove City fails to immediately implement the actions detailed above, the facility shall not admit new patients.



Amy Acton, MD, MPH  
Director of Health

5/31/19

Date