

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2019

Office of Communications, (614) 644-8562

Editor's Note— ODH Director Amy Acton, MD, MPH, will be available to speak to members of the media at 3 p.m. today, June 6, 2019 at the Ohio Department of Health, 246 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Valid state identification is required to enter the building.

Statement from Director of Health on Lifting Water Restrictions on Floors at Mount Carmel Grove City

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)— Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, MD, MPH, issued the following statement today regarding lifting water restrictions at Mount Carmel Grove City:

“The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) continues to ensure the safety of patients and staff at Mount Carmel Grove City. Ensuring the health and safety of all Ohioans is ODH’s top priority.

After consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our ODH experts, and our partners at Franklin County Public Health, I am encouraged by the recent measures taken at Mount Carmel Grove City to address the spread of Legionella.

After speaking with CDC officials, they have assured me that the medical-grade filters being used have a 30-plus year history of application effectiveness. I am pleased with the actions of the hospital to effectively install and monitor filters that prevent the Legionella bacteria from becoming a risk to hospital patients, staff, and visitors.

Mount Carmel Grove City has also pledged regular, future ongoing testing of their water system. Our team will be working closely with their staff and with local public health officials.

To further assure safety of our residents statewide, ODH will be convening a workgroup to discuss the challenges of a Legionella outbreak and learn from the experiences over the past week. This workgroup will include experts from public health, hospitals, hotels, and other stakeholders.

ODH will be looking at other policy measures to ensure the safety of patients including hospital licensure.”

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