



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 26-43

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist, Facilities Management

From: Mary Gracey-White BSN, RN, QCP, RACT-CT, RACT-CTA, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Arlette A Drigpaul, MSN RN Infection Preventionist/Education Coordinator

Date: August 7, 2026

Re: Water Management Program and Infection Prevention and Control Highlights

The Association would like to urge facilities to remain alert for possible cases of **legionellosis** as there are **increased incidences during the summer and early fall months**. Any identified cases of legionellosis must be promptly reported to the local health department (LHD) where the person resides.

- Cases in NYC residents should be reported to the NYC Health Department by calling the Provider Access Line at 866.692.3641.
NYS Cases residing outside of NYC should be reported to the LHD. If you are unable to reach the LHD, contact the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC) at 518.473.4439 or by email at epiLegionella@health.ny.gov during business hours or 866.881.2809 during evenings, weekends, and holidays.

The key to preventing Legionnaires' Disease is maintenance of the water systems in which *Legionella* may grow. Therefore, please ensure that your facility performs water culture sampling in accordance with [Subpart 4-2 - Health Care Facilities | New York Codes, Rules and Regulations](#). **Water sample testing is required annually at a minimum** unless the facility has had an identified issue whereas increased testing as outlined by NYSDOH is required.

Additionally, on July 30, 2026, GNYHCFA staff attended APIC Long Island's (Chapter 38) Summer Conference. Some of the topics highlighted are the importance of "getting back to the basics" of infection prevention and control including hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfection of shared medical equipment and environmental surfaces to prevent acquiring and spreading infections such as multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), peripheral and central line infections, urinary tract infections, and skin and soft tissue infections. Recommendations were made for strengthening surveillance of infections, education and training, and assessing the effectiveness of implemented strategies as well as making necessary adjustments to sustain gains. Attached are materials from the conference for your reference.

The Association encourages you to continue to strengthen your infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to prevent the transmission of infections. In addition to following the core principles of infection prevention and control, we encourage rounding on units by leadership staff to observe IPC practices, get feedback from staff, and perform just in time education as necessary.

Please refer to the Association's website, [Home - GNYHCFA](#), for additional Infection Prevention and Control resources or contact us if you need additional information or support.