



Julie Borowski, Director Regulatory Compliance
McLaren Flint Hospital
401 S Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48532
November 3, 2016

Dear Julie,

Thank you so much for your feedback regarding the Executive Summary and Final Report that we prepared following our investigation of McLaren Flint Hospital related to a healthcare-associated case of Legionnaires' disease. We appreciate the efforts you are taking to ensure that the potential for *Legionella* growth and transmission within your facility has been minimized. Please see below for our responses to your feedback.

Issue: Executive Summary, Facility A, bullet point 1 states that the McLaren Flint water management team was not checking disinfectant levels.

Issue: Investigative Report, page 7, paragraph 1, sentence 2 states that "...disinfectant levels had not been routinely checked at McLaren Flint, we do not know if conditions..."

Correction requested: McLaren checks disinfectant levels at a minimum of a weekly basis (see attached testing results). This statement should be clarified to reflect that disinfectant levels were not currently being tested on the cold water system at the distal locations.

CDC response: Points of use in the cold water system should be included among designated control points to ensure that residual disinfectant is consistently circulating throughout the system. Verifying the level of residual disinfectant at points of use, distal to the water entry point, provides information about the demand for oxidizing biocide throughout the system. A significant change in available residual disinfectant at the point of use could identify areas of the system with increased water age or elevated organic load, both of which factors are associated with an increased risk of *Legionella* growth and transmission. At the time of review, McLaren Flint staff were checking residual disinfectant levels in the return water, distal to points of use, where water is blended, making it impossible to discern which points of use have adequate disinfectant levels.

- Executive Summary: Added "at points of use" to end of sentence (bullet point 1)
- Final Report: Added **Addendum 2 (November 3, 2016)**: On page 7 of this report, it is stated that disinfectant levels had not been routinely checked at McLaren Flint. Upon further discussion, McLaren Flint staff clarified that monochloramine levels were being checked at least weekly in multiple machine rooms, Sub C, and the boiler room, but not at points of use. The same recommendation applies to reinstate regular disinfectant and temperature control checks as indicated in the water management plan, *including points of use*.

Issue: Page two of the full report under "The Setting" states "the auditorium area with a decorative fountain."

Correction requested: As is stated in McLaren Flint's Water Safety Plan (page 7), there are two exterior water features at McLaren Flint. There are no interior water features.

CDC response: Added **Addendum 1 (November 3, 2016)**: Page 2 of this report states that Building D has an auditorium area with a decorative fountain. Upon further discussion, McLaren Flint staff clarified that there are two *exterior* water features at McLaren Flint, but no *interior* water features, as stated on page 7 of the McLaren Flint Water Safety Plan. Nevertheless, the same recommendations apply for monitoring and maintenance of decorative fountains connected to the facility plumbing system, regardless of location.

Thank you again for your efforts. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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