

INFECTION CONTROL ISSUES CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION WATER MANAGEMENT AND MOLD REMEDIATION

Evelyn Cook

I want to begin with the premise that patients can leave the hospital sicker than they arrived if construction crews don't use established precautions to control infection during new construction or major renovations. In fact, it is estimated that there are at least 5000 construction-related infections that occur every year in healthcare facilities.

5000



Bartley J. Engineered Systems (2007) July:1-7



INCIDENCE OF INVASIVE ASPERGILLOSIS IN AT-RISK GROUPS

Host Group	Incidence of invasive aspergillosis	Mortality
Allogenic bone marrow transplantation	5-10%	57.6%
Autologous bone marrow transplantation	0-5%	
Peripheral blood stem-cell transplantation	5%	
Cytotoxic therapy-induced granulocytopenia	Up to 70%	52.3%
Kidney transplantation	0-3%	55.9%
Liver transplantation	1-15%	
Heart/lung transplantation	0-20%	
Heart transplantation	0-25%	



DOCUMENTED SOURCE OF SPORES IN CONSTRUCTION SETTINGS

- General construction and renovation work
- Disturbance of soil resulting from earth works associated with building construction and site development
- Removal of suspended ceiling tiles
- Removal of fibrous insulation material or fire-stopping
- Opening up of service distribution shafts
- Improper maintenance and operation of ventilation systems





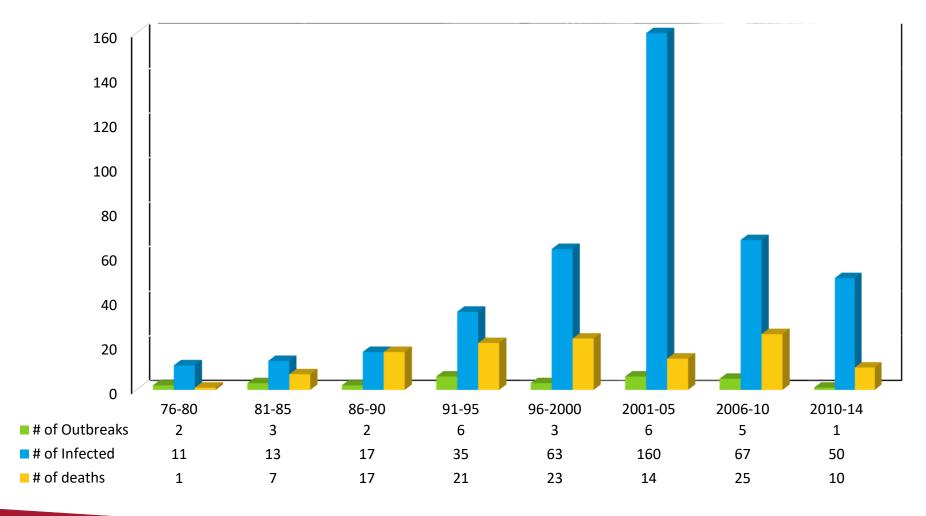


4 cases surgical and burn wound aspergillosis

CLEAN SUPPLY

Outside of packaging contaminated with dust

REVIEW OF FUNGAL OUTBREAKS AND INFECTION PREVENTION IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS DURING CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION





JOINT COMMISSION

EC.02.06.05 – The hospital manages its environment during demolition, construction or renovation (d/c/r) to reduce risk to those in the organization

- ► EP 1 When planning for new, altered or renovated space, use one of the following design criteria
 - State rule and regulations
 - ▶ 2018 FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals, includes ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017 Ventilation of Healthcare Facilities
 - ▶ When above rules, regulations and guidelines do not meet specific design needs, use other reputable standards that provide equivalent criteria



NORTH CAROLINA STATE RULES

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 1, 2017

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Nadine Pfeiffer, Rule Review Manager

RE: Proposed Repeal of Hospital Construction Rules

10A NCAC 13B Licensing of Hospitals

GS 150B-21.2 requires a rule-making body to notify certain individuals of its intent to adopt a permanent rule. It also requires notification of the date, time and location of the public hearing on the rule and any fiscal note that has been prepared in connection with the proposed rule.

The North Carolina Medical Care Commission has submitted form OAH 0300 to the Codifier of Rules, Office of Administrative Hearings, indicating its intent to repeal the following 29 rules:

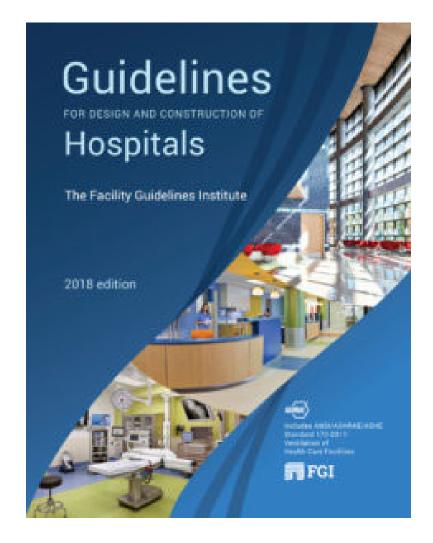
10A NCAC 13B .6001, .6002, .6104, .6201-.6206 and .6208-.6227.

The enactment of Session Law 2017-174, Senate Bill 42, known as "An Act Directing the Medical Care Commission to Adopt the Recommendations of the American Society of Healthcare Engineering's Facility Guidelines Institute" that became effective July 21, 2017 requires the N.C. Medical Care Commission to repeal rules to implement the provisions of the Act. In accordance with G.S. 150B-21.4(d), a fiscal note is not required for a repeal of a rule.

www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/ruleactions.html



FGI GUIDELINES





JOINT COMMISSION

EC.02.06.05 – The hospital manages its environment during demolition, construction or renovation (d/c/r) to reduce risk to those in the organization

►EP 2 — When planning for d/c/r, hospital conducts a preconstruction risk assessment for air quality, <u>infection</u> <u>control</u>... and other hazards that affect care, treatment and services



FGI 2018 GUIDELINES



1.2-4 Safety Risk Assessment Components

- ► Infection control risk assessment
- ▶ Patient handling and movement assessment

Multidisciplinary

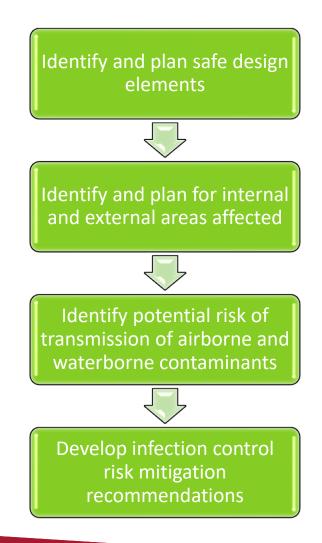
- ► Fall prevention assessment
- Medication safety assessment
- Behavioral and mental health risk assessment
- ▶ Patient immobility assessment

Documentation

Security risk assessment



ICRA DOCUMENTED PROCESS TO PROACTIVELY:





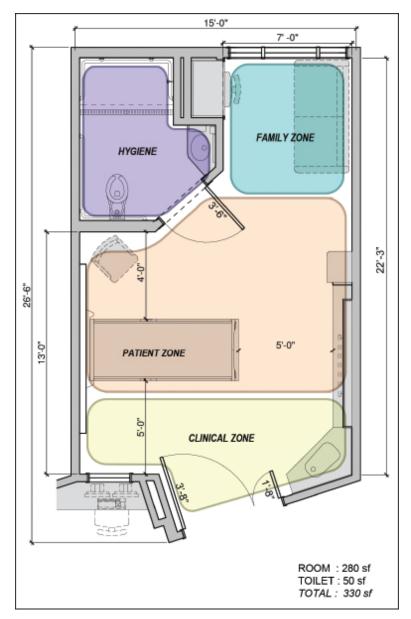
ICRA CONSIDERATIONS

Identify and plan safe design elements

Design Elements

- Number and location of All and PE rooms
- ► HVAC needs
- Number and location of Hand washing stations and hand sanitation dispensers
- Impact on water system
- Surfaces and finishes

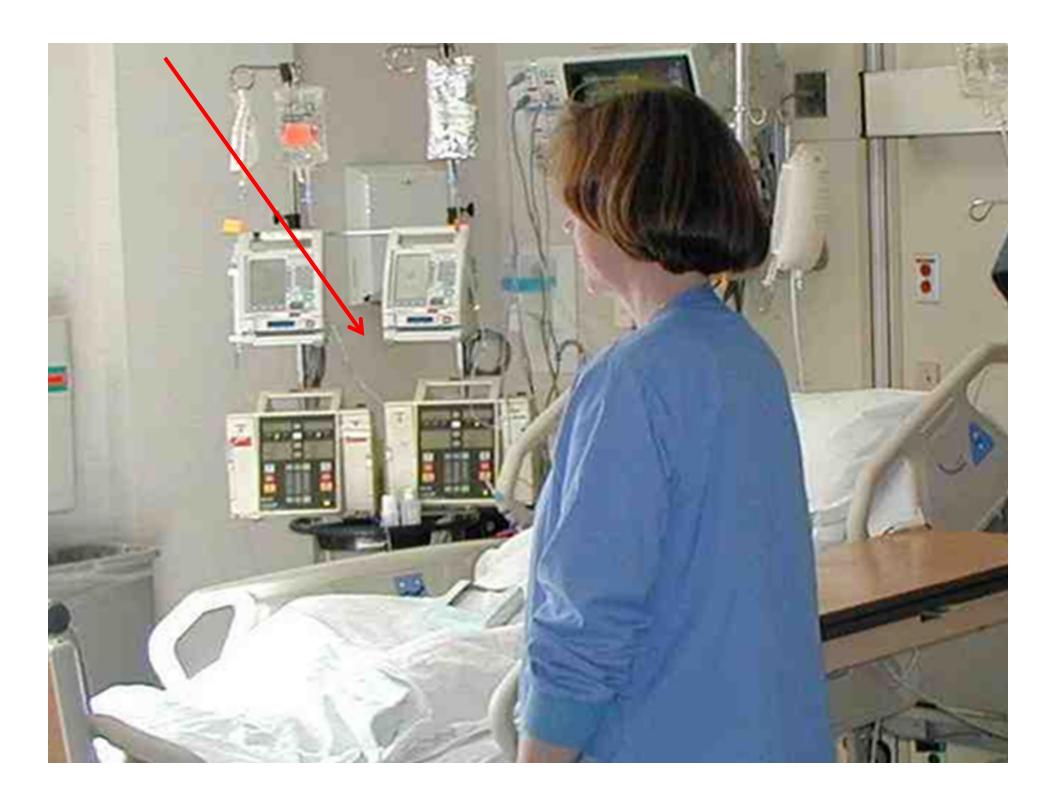












OTHER ICRA CONSIDERATIONS

Identify and plan for internal and external areas affected

Identify potential risk of transmission of airborne and waterborne contaminants

Construction Elements

- Disrupting essential services
- Specific hazards and protection levels
- ► Location of patients
- ▶ Impact of moving debris, traffic flow, and spill clean-up
- Assessment of construction activities
- Location of known hazards



RISK MITIGATION

- Patient placement/location
- Barriers and other protective measures
- Temporary phasing of HVAC/water
- Protection from demolition
- ▶ Training

Develop infection control risk mitigation recommendations

- ► Impact of utility outages
- Movement of debris, traffic flow, cleanup and elevator control
- Provision of bathroom and food for construction workers
- Protection of building material



RISK MITIGATION

Monitoring plan and procedures

- Determined by the governing body
- Conducted by IP, epidemiologist, construction coordinators, safety staff or an outside consultant
- ► Have written procedures for emergency suspension of work
- ► Protective indicating the responsibilities of each party (governing body, contractor, designer, and monitor)





DETERMINING CONTROL MEASURES

Identify type of Construction

- Type A Inspection and non-invasive activities
- Type B Small scale, short duration, limited dust
- Type C Requires demolition and removal of fixtures, moderate to high dust
- Type D Major demolition and construction



DETERMINING CONTROL MEASURES

Patient Risk Groups

- Low risk Office areas, public areas
- Medium risk Outpatient clinics, cafeterias, public corridors
- High risk All inpatient nursing units (except ICU/Stepdown), ER, L&D, etc.
- Highest risk All ICUs and Stepdowns, Oncology, Surgical suites (OR, PACU), Transplant clinics



DETERMINING CONTROL MEASURES



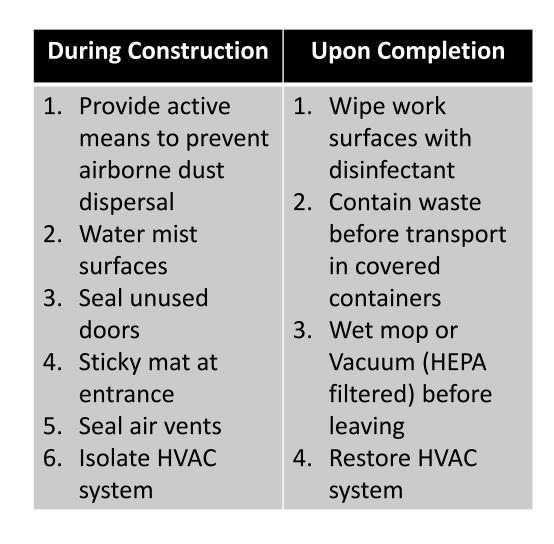
Complete Risk Matrix

Risk Group	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D
Low	1	П	II	III/IV
Medium	1	П	III	IV
High	1	II	III/IV	IV
Highest	1-111	III/IV	III/IV	IV



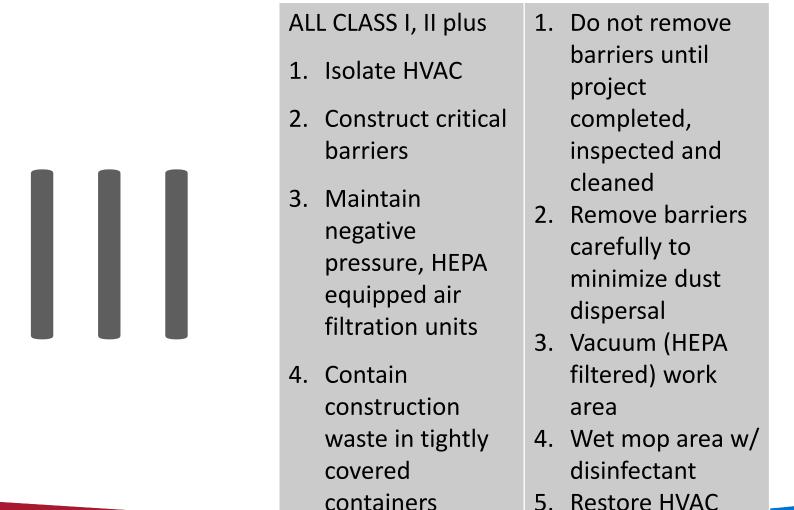
During Construction	Upon Completion
 Minimize raising dust 	 Clean work area upon completion
Replace displaced ceiling tiles	

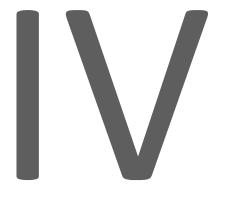






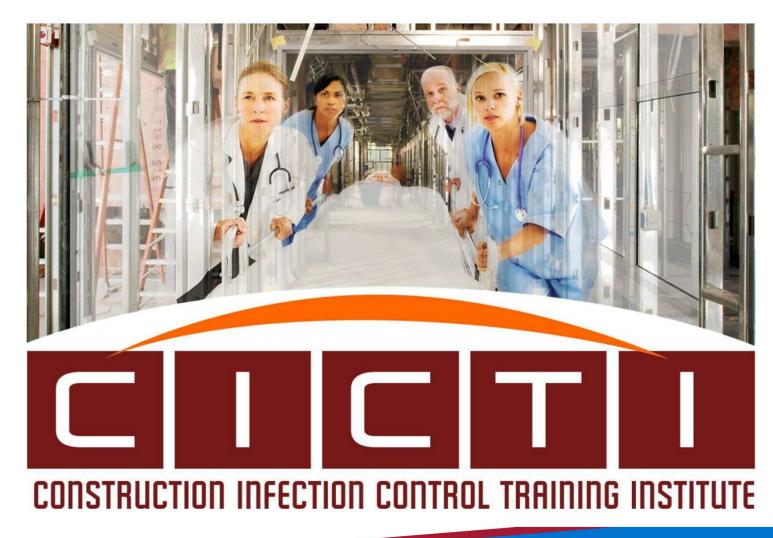
During Construction Upon Completion





During Construction	Upon Completion
ALL CLASS I, II, III	1. Do not remove
plus	barriers until
1. Seal all holes,	project
pipes, and	completed,
conduits	inspected and
2. Construct	cleaned
Anteroom at	2. Remove barriers
entrance, must	carefully to
vacuum off prior	minimize dust
to exiting or wear	dispersal
coveralls	3. Vacuum (HEPA
3. All personnel	filtered) work
wear shoe	area
covers. Covers	4. Wet mop area w/
removed at exit	disinfectant
	5. Restore HVAC

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS FOR IP





BUILDING SYSTEMS – AIR HANDLING UNITS Outside Air (OA) Mixing Cooling, Pre-Filter **Final** of OA for Large Moisture Fan and Filter for Supply Air and **Particles** Removal Motor **Small** Room Return and **Particles** Heating

Return Air (Already Heated, Cooled, Filtered – Also Removes CO2 and Other Contaminants)



AIR HANDLING UNITS AND FILTRATION 100,000 Particles / L Outside Air 30,000 Particles / L (OA) 3,000 Particles / L MERV 8 MERV 14 Pre-Filter Mixing Cooling, (90%)70% (BIG) of OA Moisture^l Fan and **Supply Air** Final No Rating and Removal Motor Filter for F for Small _[Room Return and Small Heating **Particles** Return Air (Already Heated, Cooled, Filtered – Also Removes CO2 and Other Contaminants) Occupants/Disturbances (Add), Exhaust/Return (Remove)

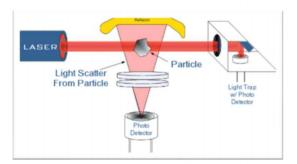
Areas Where Growth Regularly Occurs (Add Particles)



MONITORING DUST

Laser Particle Counters

- Measures Dust Concentrations in Air
- Concentration per Unit of Air
- Compare Outdoor Air to Facility Indoor Air
- Actual Numbers are Relatively Meaningless
- Relationship or % Difference IS Important !!!
- Tied to MERV Rating on AHU Filters (MERV 16 = 95%)







MONITORING – PARTICLE COUNTERS



- Used to Assess Baseline Conditions
 - Baseline Conditions Acceptable (Within 10% of MERV Expectation)
 - Baseline Questionable (Within 30% of MERV Expectation)
 - Baseline Conditions Warrant Immediate Action (> 30% Variance in Expectation)
- If Baseline Relationships Maintained = No Extra Dust
- Construction Breakdowns Are UNMISTAKABLE (100-1000% Swings)

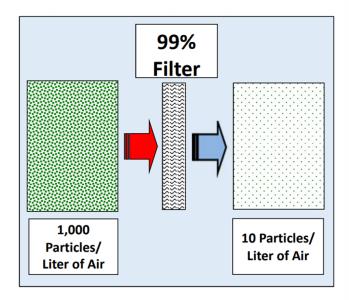




EXERCISE: HEPA TESTING



- How Much Dust Entering System?
- How Much Dust Leaving System?
- Can We Demonstrate >99% Removal?
- This is EXTREMELY Important if Exhausting into Hospital Spaces





MOBILE CONTAINMENT UNITS



Used for short term access / minor work above grid and tile in sensitive areas

- Constructed of durable, cleanable material
- Provides full coverage from floor to ceiling
- Achieves good seal at the ceiling or wall connections
- Coupled with HEPA air scrubber for negative pressurization
- Has lockable wheels
- Sealable entry / exit
- Properly Maintained!!!





CONTROLLING AIR FLOW

Ventilation of the Construction Space

Airflow into the construction zone from occupied spaces by dedicated ventilation/exhaust system for the construction area

- ► Location of exhaust discharges, fresh air intakes, sealing of existing air ducts
- Use of existing building systems
- ► Pressure differential of at least 0.03 inch water gauge (7.0 pascals)
- Visible display of negative pressure



CONTROLLING DUST

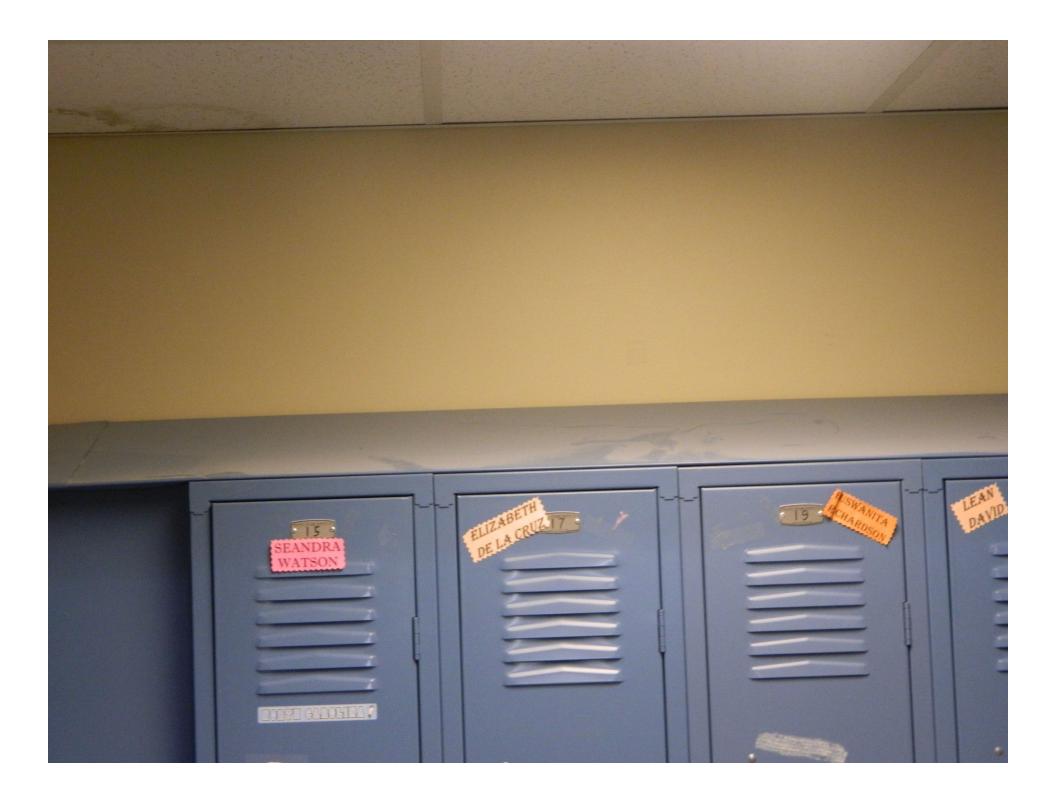
- Mats changed weekly
- ► HEPA vacuum only-documentation from construction company
- ► Particle counter
 - Baseline
 - Daily
 - ► HEPA units/filter
 - # of particles going in
 - # of particles coming out







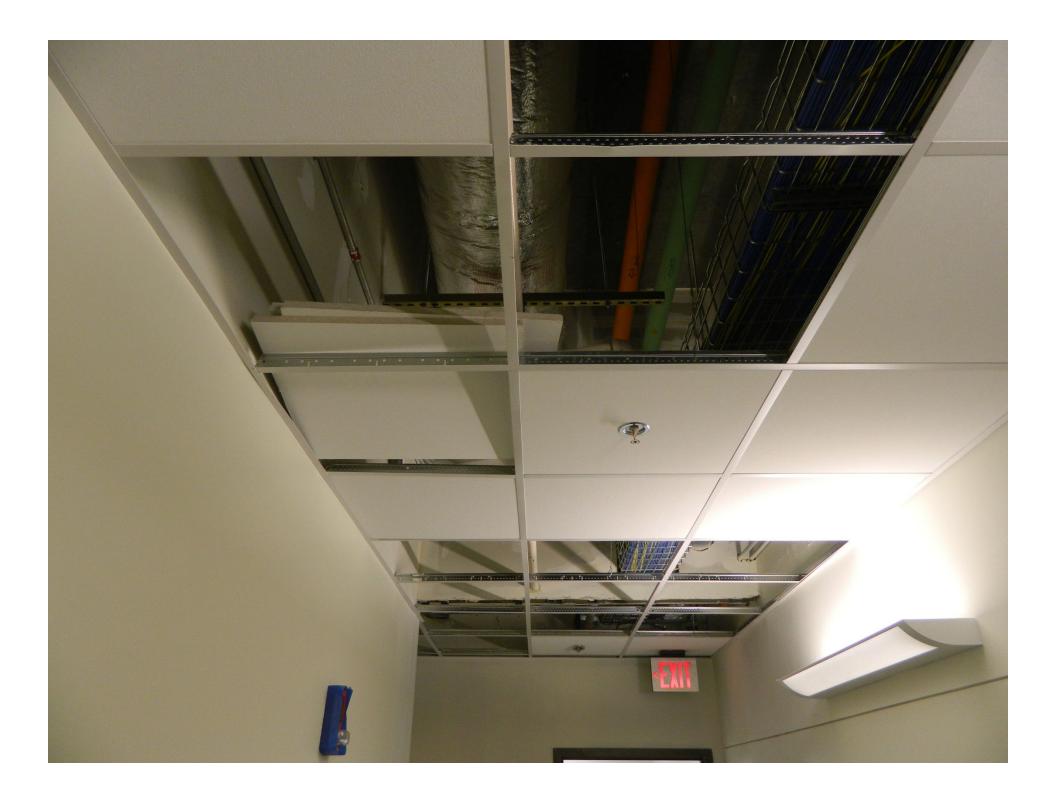






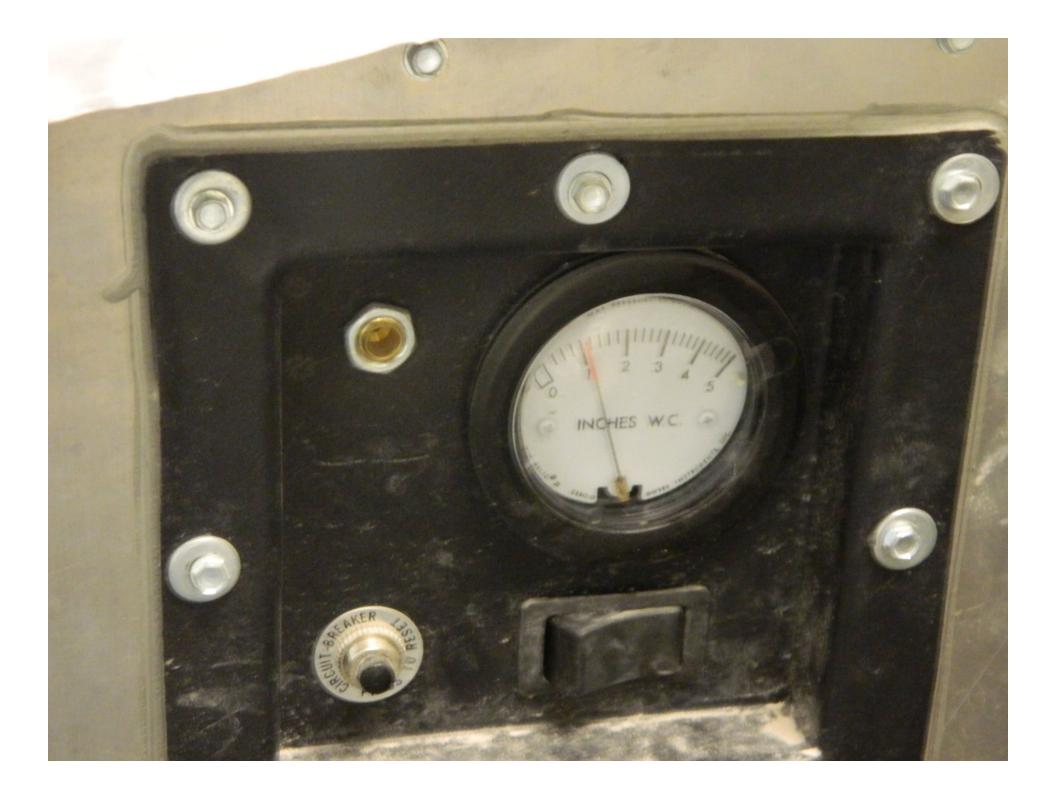
















Sealed Air Vents



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Five groups for whom training is important

- Construction company supervisory personnel
- Construction workers
- 3. Hospital staff impacted by construction projects
- Healthcare facility maintenance and engineering personnel
- Healthcare project manager



EDUCATION

Construction Workers:

- Adverse effects of construction dust on patients
- ► The ICRA process
- Specific facility rules, such as entry and exit from buildings
- Worksite containment
- Dust control measures
- Containment and transport of construction materials and debris (this would include use of elevator(s)

- ► Facility staff impacted by project:
 - ► A review of the ICRA plan
 - Appropriate signage at the worksite
 - What proper barriers look like
 - Proper above-ceiling dust control measures
 - ► The importance of negative pressure
 - Proper debris removal procedure
 - Whom to notify about possible deficiencies.

APIC Infection Prevention Manual for Construction and Renovation



MOLD REMEDIATION

▶ Although molds can be found almost anywhere, they need moisture and nutrients to grow. The exact specifications for optimal mold growth vary by the species of mold. However, mold grows best in damp, warm environments. The availability of nutrients in indoor environments rarely limits mold growth because wood, wallboard, wallpaper, upholstery, and dust can be nutrient sources. When a hospital experiences water intrusion such as flooding or water leaks, resulting mold growth can seriously compromise the health of patients and others such as nursing staff and physicians

Mold Prevention Strategies and Possible Health Effects in the Aftermath of Hurricanes and Major Floods MMWR; June 9, 2006/Vol.55/No.RR8

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5508.pdf



NORTH CAROLINA GUIDELINES FOR MOISTURE MANAGEMENT AND MOLD REMEDIATION IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

These guidelines are a consensus document approved by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC-NC), the Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (SPICE), the Public Health Institutional Task Force for Best Practices (PHIT Force), North Carolina State Division of Public Health, and the North Carolina Infectious Disease Society (NCIDS).

https://spice.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/mold-2007-03-08-1.pdf



DETERMINING WHETHER A MOLD PROBLEM CURRENTLY EXISTS

- Are building materials or furnishings visibly moisture damaged?
- ► Have building materials been wet more than 48 hours?
- Are there existing moisture problems in the building?
- Are building occupants reporting musty or moldy odors?
- ► Are building occupants reporting health problems that they think are related to mold in the indoor environment?
- ► Has the building been recently remodeled or has the building use changed?
- ► Has routine maintenance been delayed or the maintenance schedule been altered?



THE REMEDIATION PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE

- ✓ Steps to permanently correct the water or moisture problem
- ✓ The use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ✓ Steps to carefully contain and remove moldy building materials in a manner that will prevent further contamination.
- ✓ Depending on the size and complexity of the job, allow for revision of the plan if circumstances change or new facts are discovered. The types of affected materials and pathways for exposure are important considerations in any remediation plan. Porous materials may need removal and semi-porous and non-porous materials may only need cleaning and drying.
- ✓ Evaluating patient or healthcare case workers' exposure to contaminated air and construction materials. Patients may need to be relocated if traffic flow of construction activity cannot be found through non-patient areas.





Put on personal protective equipment (gloves, mask, goggles) to protect your eyes, nose, mouth, and skin.



Take it out! Anything that was wet with flood water and can't be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours should be taken outside. Take photos of discarded items for filing insurance claims.



Air it

Open all doors and windows when you are working, and leave as many open as you safely can when you leave.



When electricity is safe to use, use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture.



Don't mix cleaners

If you use cleaning products, do not mix cleaning products together. DO NOT mix bleach and ammonia because it can create toxic vapors.



Clean with water and a detergent. Remove all mold you can see. Dry right away.



Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent mold from growing. Fix the water problem completely and clean up all the mold before you paint or caulk.



Dry it Up

Dry your home and everything in it as quickly as possible – within 24 to 48 hours if you can.

http://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm





SUMMARY

The IP should be involved in all construction projects from planning to completion

Common challenge – Lack of engagement or support from administration and getting support for IP involvement in construction activities

- ▶ Need to comply with regulatory agencies (State, FGI and TJC)
- Demonstrate value of the program
- ▶ Demonstrate how IP input results in an enhanced outcome and/or where the lack of input resulted in adverse outcomes



It is important for infectious disease physicians and infection preventionists in collaboration with building contractors and other associated departments to appropriately implement risk assessment and mitigation measures and prevent healthcare-associated fungal outbreaks and infections.

Review of Fungal Outbreaks and Infection Prevention in Healthcare Settings During Construction and Renovation Hajime Kanamori, William A. Rutala, Emily E. Sickbert-Bennett, and David J. Weber



Sources of Water in HC

Roof leaks

Steam leaks

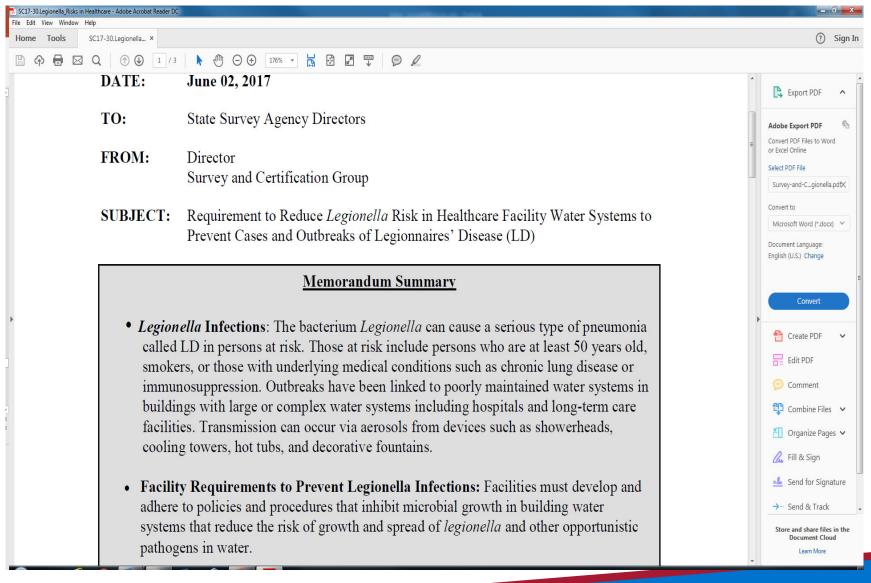
Leaking fire sprinkler

Burst pipes

HVAC condensate pans



Water Management Plan



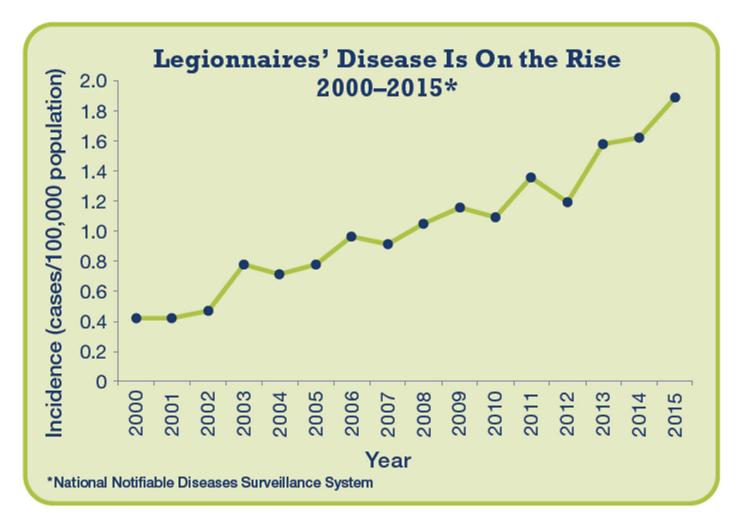
Developing a Water Management Program to Reduce Legionella Growth & Spread in Buildings

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTING INDUSTRY STANDARDS



https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/toolkit.pdf





In the United States, reported cases of Legionnaires' disease have increased by nearly four and a half times since 2000. More illness occurs in the summer and early fall but can happen any time of year.



LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA

- Legionella is found naturally in freshwater environments (lakes and streams) but generally does not lead to disease
- Legionella can be become a health problem in building water systems
- Legionella first must grow...THEN
- Must be aerosolized so people can breathe in small, contaminated water droplets





WHERE CAN *LEGIONELLA* GROW AND SPREAD?

- Hot and cold-water storage tanks
- Water heaters
- Water filters
- Aerators Faucet flow restrictors
- Pipes, valves and fittings

- Electronic and manual faucets*
- Showerheads*
- Centrally-installed misters and humidifiers*
- Eyewash stations*
- Ice Machines*
- Hot tubs*
- Decorative fountains*
- Cooling towers*
- Medical Devices*
 - CPAP machines, hydrotherapy equipment, bronchoscopes



Factors Leading to Growth

External Factors

- Construction
- Water main breaks
- Changes in municipal water quality



Internal



1 Attachment

- Scale and sediment
- Water temperature fluctuations
- Water pressure changes
- рН
- Inadequate disinfectant
- **Water Stagnation**



Identifying Buildings at Increased Risk

Survey your building (or property) to determine if you need a water management program to reduce the risk of *Legionella* growth and spread.

If you answer YES to any of questions 1 through 4, you should have a water management program for *that building's* hot and cold water distribution system.

Healthcare Facilities				
Yes No	1.	Is your building a healthcare facility where patients stay overnight or does your building house or treat people who have chronic and acute medical problems [†] or weakened immune systems?		
Yes No	2.	Does your building primarily house people older than 65 years (like a retirement home or assisted-living facility)?		
Yes No	3.	Does your building have multiple housing units and a centralized hot water system (like a hotel or high-rise apartment complex)?		
Yes No	4.	Does your building have more than 10 stories (including basement levels)?		



Devices in buildings that can spread contaminated water droplets should have a water management program even if the building itself does not. If you answer NO to all of questions 1 through 4 but YES to any of questions 5 through 8, you should have a water management program for *that device*.

Yes	No	5.	Does your building have a cooling tower*?
Yes	No	6.	Does your building have a hot tub (also known as a spa) that is not drained between each use?
Yes	No	7.	Does your building have a decorative fountain?
Yes	No	8.	Does your building have a centrally-installed mister, atomizer, air washer, or humidifier?



What Needs To Be Done?



Identify building water systems for which *Legionella* control measures are needed

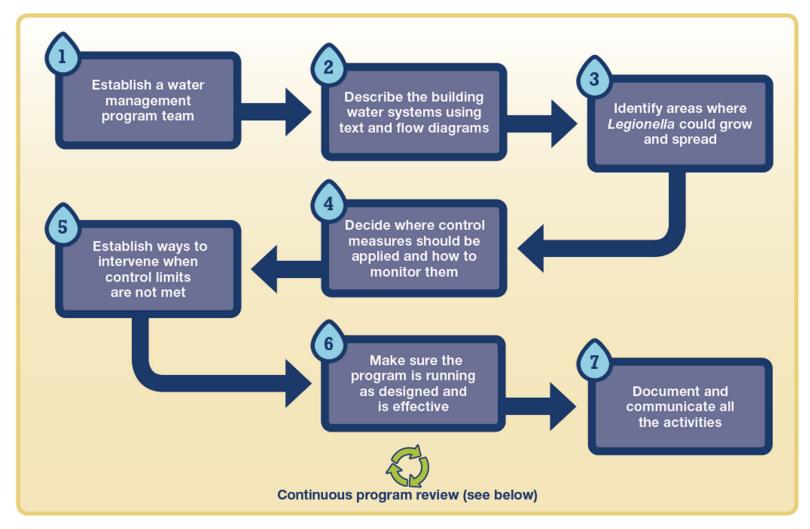
Assess how much risk the hazardous conditions in those water systems pose

Apply control measures to reduce the hazardous conditions, whenever possible, to prevent *Legionella* growth and spread

Make sure the program is running as designed and is effective



Elements of a WMP



Annual Review

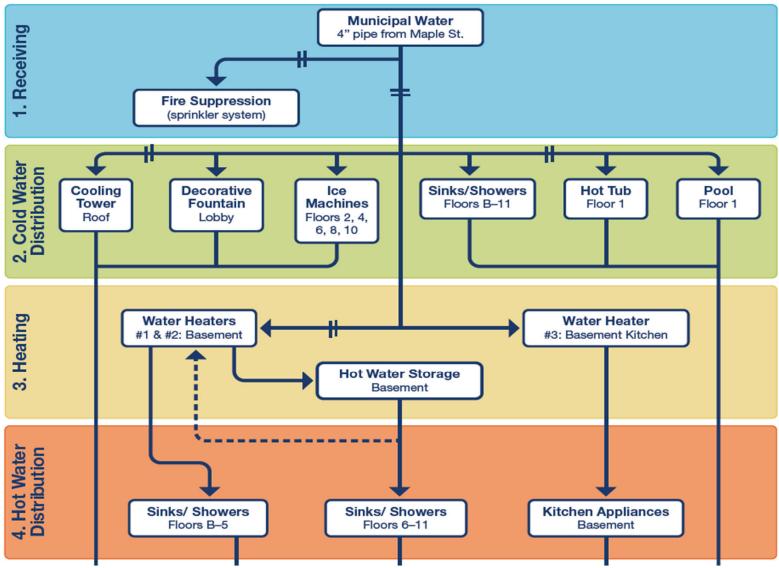


Water Management Team

- Administrator
- Maintenance or engineering
- State/local health officials
- Infection preventionist
- Medical director
- Risk/Quality management staff



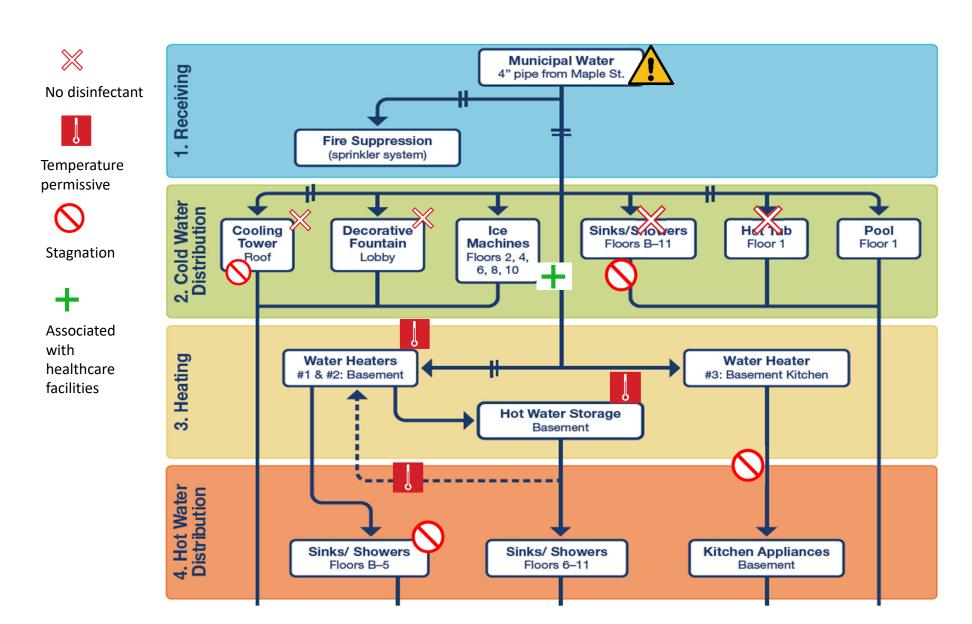




Describe Your Building Water Systems

Develop a written description of your building water systems in addition to a process flow diagram.

Understood easily by all members of your WMT.



Areas Where Legionella Could Grow and Spread

Additional Elements of a WMP

- Describe control measures and how monitored
- 2. Ways to intervene when control limits not met
- 3. Make sure program is running as designed
- 4. Document and communicate

