

## Order of Control Measures on Property

Date: August 18, 2017

To: [REDACTED]

Property: [REDACTED]

Purpose: To minimize the probability of additional cases of infection with Legionella Bacteria

Pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code § 81.084, I, the Local Health Authority for the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (WMCPHD) hereby issues this order imposing the control measures listed in Exhibit "A" on the Property.

Based on information and belief, you are the owner of the Fairfield Inn & Suites Waco North property located at [REDACTED]

This order is being issued based on reasonable cause to believe that the property is or may be infected or contaminated by a communicable disease that could constitute a threat to the public health.

You are hereby ordered to authorize entry to and submit the property to investigation by the Local Health Authority. The property at issue may not be moved, caused to move, or allowed to move from its current location until authorization is received from the WMCPHD and the Local Health Authority.

Additional information regarding any technically feasible control measures to be implemented will be provided to you in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, information, or concerns or if you are not the owner, person in control, or registered agent for the property, please contact Vaidehi Shah at [vaidehis@wacotx.gov](mailto:vaidehis@wacotx.gov).

**Failure to abide by this order and further instructions from the WMCPHD and/or the Local Health Authority may result in criminal penalties and/or further legal action.**

This order is issued under my authority as the Local Health Authority for the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.



E. Farley Verner, M.D.

Local Health Authority, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

City of Bellmead

City of Beverly Hills

City of Bruceville-Eddy

City of Crawford

City of Gholson

City of Golinda

City of Hallsburg

City of Hewitt

City of Lacy-Lakeview

City of Leroy

City of Lorena

City of Mart

City of McGregor

City of Moody

City of Riesel

City of Robinson

City of Ross

City of Waco

City of West

City of Woodway

McLennan County

## **EXHIBIT "A"**

**To minimize the likelihood of additional infection of residents, employees, or visitors to [REDACTED] with the infectious agent that causes Legionnaire's Disease (*Legionella pneumophila*), the following control measures shall be instituted:**

- I. Administrative Control Measures
  - A. Immediately notify Vaidehi Shah via email ([vaidehis@wacotx.gov](mailto:vaidehis@wacotx.gov)) if Fairfield Inn & Suites Waco North is unable to comply with any component of the Control Order(s).
- II. Disease Surveillance Control Measures
  - A. Immediately notify the WMCPHD via the 24/7 Diseases Reporting Line 254-750-5411 of any suspected or confirmed cases of Legionellosis and any known guests, staff, volunteers, and/or regular visitors exhibiting *any* symptoms compatible with *Legionella* infection.
- III. Notification:
  - A. Immediately provide the attached Public Health Information Bulletin to all employees and visitors of [REDACTED]
  - B. The information contained in the Public Health Information Bulletin shall be communicated to all guests with current reservations and any guests with reservations prior to October 18, 2017 at the property.
  - C. The Public Health Information Bulletin shall be posted on the front entrance to the property, placed within view of the public at the front desk, and a copy shall be provided to all guests at check-in.
  - D. The information contained in the Public Health Information Bulletin shall be provided to all guests that resided at the property between August 4-18, 2017. Records of this notification shall be provided to the WMCPHD.
- IV. Environmental Health Control Measures
  - A. Testing of water systems for Legionella
    1. Provide results of all water testing to the WMCPHD within one business day of receipt, via email to Vaidehi Shah ([vaidehis@wacotx.gov](mailto:vaidehis@wacotx.gov)).
  - B. Inspection of Water Supply Systems Within Facility
    1. Retain the services of an environmental consultant who is both (1) able to develop and implement an ASHRAE 188-compliant water management program and (2) capable of Legionella environmental testing at an ELITE-certified lab (or able to subcontract with such a lab.) The chosen consultant must be reviewed and approved by WMCPHD prior to conducting any inspections or services. **Compliance deadline is Friday, August 25, 2017.**
    2. Increase the temperature of all five hot water heaters to a minimum of 140°F, following local and state anti-scald regulations. **Compliance deadline is Friday, August 25, 2017.**
- V. Additional Control Measures
  - A. Additional control measures may be required based on lab results from water sampling that was conducted on August 8, 2017, and/or based on any future findings from the development of a water management plan.

## Public Health Notice to Guests

Dear Guest(s):

The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District (WMCPHD) has been notified by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of guests who stayed at Fairfield Inn & Suites Waco North over the last year and were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease.

[REDACTED] is cooperating with WMCPHD and is participating in an investigation by WMCPHD to identify possible risks of *Legionella* bacteria growth in the hotel's water system. Numerous water samples were taken from the hotel and are undergoing tests in order to determine the possible source(s) of the water contamination. The results of these tests are still pending. The investigation is still in progress and we are proactively working with WMCPHD towards a solution for remediation of this issue to provide safe water to our guests.

Legionnaires' disease is a form of pneumonia caused by *Legionella* bacteria. The risk of developing Legionnaires' disease is low, but it occurs more frequently in the elderly, those who smoke, and in individuals that are at higher risk of infection; such as those with a chronic illness, respiratory disease, or compromised immune system. The infection is caused by breathing in a mist or vapor containing the *Legionella* bacteria. It is not contagious and almost never spreads from person to person. Most cases are successfully treated with antibiotics. Symptoms include high fever, chills, cough, fatigue, muscle aches, and headaches. These symptoms usually begin 2-14 days after being exposed. If you have developed any combination of these symptoms, we strongly encourage you to see your doctor.

[REDACTED] will continue with WMCPHD to take appropriate actions to protect the health of guests and employees and to disinfect the hotel's water system. In the meantime, the following measures may help prevent potential infection during your stay with us:

- Showering can be associated with an increased risk of infection. Please consider taking a bath instead.
- Please refer to the attached fact sheet to determine your risk of acquiring Legionnaires' disease. If you have one or more of the risk factors outlined in the fact sheet, please consider rescheduling your visit with us.
- If you have special concerns about your risk for this infection, you are welcome to use bottled water for hygiene practices or drinking water.

If you become ill within 14 days of your stay at [REDACTED] please refer to the attached fact sheet regarding the symptoms of this illness and seek medical attention if you become symptomatic. If you experience symptoms of Legionnaires' disease, please provide your physician this information and ask him or her to contact the WMCPHD at 254-750-5411 to obtain further instruction on how to report your illness as soon as possible after your diagnosis. Also, please share this information with others who stayed in your room during your visit to Fairfield Inn & Suites Waco North.

Additional information on *Legionella* is available from the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/downloads/fs-legionnaires.pdf>.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the WMCPHD at 254-750-5411.

Sincerely,