October 12, 2018

Dear Morris View Resident, Family Members, Friends and Staff:

As you may recall, and as was detailed in my September 20, 2018 letter, Morris View residents, family members and staff continue to be provided the latest information regarding the Morris View Legionella Bacteria Remediation process and follow-up testing. In that letter I had advised that the next round of water sampling was scheduled for Monday, September 24th with the results anticipated during the second week of October.

I wanted to share with each of you that this second round of testing post-remediation resulted in some levels of legionella bacteria being found in 39 of the 48 test sites. Local health officials, the N.J. Department of Health, and our Environmental professionals have reviewed these test results and believe that the Nursing Home Facility may be experiencing what is referred to as a “Bounce Back” where elements of the bacteria had become dislodged as a result of the recently concluded remediation process and is now exiting the water system.

Upon the review of these results, the County immediately undertook a two-day non-stop Facility-Wide Flushing process with the goal of flushing all dislodged bacteria out of the water system. This was followed by another cycle of water testing consisting of 48 samples. Additionally, a professional plumbing contractor was brought back into the facility to undertake a further round of analytics seeking previously undetected “dead-legs” and ensuring that no “crossovers” (hot water pipes being directed into the cold water system) exist.

The N.J. Department of Health has provided guidance to the County during this process that includes continued use of all precautionary methods previously enacted as well as rigorous and ongoing water testing. The precautions included the removal of faucet aerators, the installation of showerhead filters, and the use of bottled drinking water. Also within the facility will be an ongoing flushing schedule to include the daily flushing of toilets, showers and faucets throughout the facility.

These remediation initiatives are long-term process with extensive follow-up analysis and testing. The County of Morris remains committed to the safety and well-being of Morris View residents and their families, visitors and staff, and as such will continue to provide you with the most current information available. The results of the next round of water sampling is anticipated during the week of October 29th. Once those results have been received, they will also be shared.
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 973-285-6040 or feel free to email me at jbonanni@co.morris.nj.us.

As always thank you for your time and interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

John Bonanni
County Administrator

JB:ks
Dear Morris View Resident, Family Members, Friends and Staff:

As you may recall and in an August 31, 2018 letter Morris View residents, family members and staff had been notified that the Morris View Legionella Bacteria Remediation Plan had gone according to plan. Following that effort, post-remediation water samples were taken throughout the facility on Tuesday, September 4th and sent for testing. The original forty-eight (48) sample sites were re-tested and results showed that six (6) sites remained positive for trace amounts of the Legionella bacteria.

Our local health officials, the N.J. Department of Health, and our Environmental professionals have reviewed these test results and have concluded that the results demonstrate that remediation efforts are proving effective. According to all, the presence of residual bacteria post remediation is common, as the remediation activities often dislodge bacteria from inside pipes and that bacteria can continue to move through the system for a period of time.

The N.J. Department of Health has provided written guidance to the County that includes continued use of all precautionary methods previously enacted as well as rigorous and ongoing water testing. Also recommended, and immediately implemented post remediation, is an aggressive flushing schedule that includes the daily flushing of toilets, showers and faucets throughout the facility.

As previously discussed, remediation initiatives are long-term processes with extensive follow-up analysis and testing periods. The County of Morris remains committed to the safety and well-being of Morris View residents and their families, visitors and staff, and as such will continue to provide you with the most current information available. The next round of water sampling is scheduled for Monday, September 24th with the results anticipated during the week of October 8th. Once those results have been received, they will also be shared.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 973-285-6040 or feel free to email me at jbonanni@co.morris.nj.us.

As always thank you for your time and interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

John Bonanni
County Administrator
August 31, 2018

Dear Morris View Resident, Family Members, Friends and Staff:

As you may recall, my August 16, 2018 letter and the August Family Meeting primarily focused upon the Morris View Legionella Bacteria Remediation Plan. Once the engineering and plumbing work was completed, the remediation process commenced. The remediation project has gone according to plan and concluded in the afternoon on Thursday, August 30, 2018.

Post-remediation water samples will be taken throughout the facility on Tuesday, September 4th and sent for testing. Results are expected to be received two (2) weeks later. Once these results are known they will be communicated. Assuming that all test samples are negative an extensive two (2) year water testing plan will be put in place followed by an ongoing Water Management Plan.

In the meantime, all pre-remediation precautionary measures will remain in place until the post-remediation water sampling test results are received. As I am sure you will recall, some of these measures included shower filters, removal of all aerators, the installation of filters in the beauty salon sinks and ice machines, and bringing in bottled water. Also, and as previously shared, residents who have exhibited any signs of respiratory distress have been and will continue to be tested for the legionella bacteria. To date, all thirty-nine (39) test results have been NEGATIVE for the legionella bacteria. This testing will continue.

The County of Morris remains committed to the safety and well-being of Morris View residents and their families, visitors and staff, and as such will continue to provide you with the most current information available.

The next Morris View Family Meeting will be held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6pm. Respective staff members will be in attendance to provide an update regarding this matter and to respond to questions. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 973-285-6040 or feel free to email me at jbonanni@co.morris.nj.us.

Thank you for your time and understanding.  

Sincerely,

John Bonanni  
County Administrator

JB:ks

cc: Deena Leary, Assistant County Administrator  
Jennifer Carpinteri, Director, Department of Human Services  
Dr. Carlos Perez, Jr., Director of Morris County Health Management
August 16, 2018

Dear Morris View Resident, Family members, Friends and Staff:

In letters dated July 5, 2018 and July 20, 2018, I wrote to you regarding the one Morris View resident had tested positive for Legionella bacteria and the efforts immediately undertaken to ensure everyone’s safety.

As you may recall, both the July 12, 2018 and August 14, 2018 Family Meetings at Morris View Healthcare Center provided detailed information related to the interim precautionary measures taken and the planned remediation process, as well as addressed numerous questions and concerns.

As discussed at the July 12, 2018 Family Meeting, numerous proactive measures were taken to insure everyone’s health. Part of those measures included testing anyone who exhibited even minor respiratory distress. To date, twenty-seven (27) resident results have been received and ALL twenty-seven (27) residents tested NEGATIVE for the legionella bacteria. This testing will continue.

The August 14, 2018 Family Meeting primarily focused upon the Remediation Plan, which involves treatment of the water system. As such, this correspondence is intended to provide the latest detailed information received from the remediation professionals.

The remediation for the Legionella Bacteria in the water system at Morris View has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2018, Wednesday, August 29, 2018 & Thursday August 30, 2018. The advancement of this stage could not occur until the entire plumbing system was analyzed and plumbing corrections were made to the facility. During the remediation, the facility will be without water for 36-48 hours. As such, appropriate protocols and procedures will be implemented as they relate to patient care and building operations. Below is an outline of the extensive planning and a guide to what to expect during the facility-wide remediation process.

- As patient care is paramount, Allaire will ensure additional staff on each shift 24 hours per day for the duration of the remediation process to assist the residents and families.

- Potable water both cold and warm will be provided via a commercial vendor, utilizing large tanker trucks, as well as portable hand wash stations provided by a commercial vendor. These temporary systems will support patient care, infection control, dietary, laundry, housekeeping and continued operations of the building’s other Lessee’s, Cornerstone Adult Day Care, VA Clinic, and Veterans Office. Toilets may be used during this time and do not require alternative facilities.

- Showers will not be available from 9:00 am on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 until the afternoon of Thursday, August 30, 2018. However, resident bathing schedules will not be disrupted.
• A dietary menu will be developed with cold meals and at least one premade hot meal per day. Coffee urns will be available on each unit for residents and visitors and bottled water will be served for drinking. Ice chests will be filled with water on each unit for resident and visitor convenience.

• Laundry capabilities will be limited to resident clothing only so the facility has ordered enough linens to be self-reliant for the duration of the remediation. Linens include, bed sheets, towels, gowns and bibs.

• Housekeeping will have access to water to ensure continued sanitation and infection control efforts. Disposable mops and buckets will be filled with a separate source than patient care water stations.

• OMEGA is the company who will be managing the remediation. They will have a large crew on site to continually and routinely treat the facility water system to effectively eliminate the Legionella bacteria. The remediation company will ensure that the treatment agent is flushed from the water system prior to allowing normal water use to be restored. They will be escorted by County, Allaire and security staff at all times. It is important to note that OMEGA staff will NOT enter resident rooms without the presence of an Allaire staff member.

• The Morris County Sheriff's Office will have a Sheriff's Officer present at the facility 24 hours a day for the duration of the remediation to support the onsite security team.

• The Morris County Emergency Response Unit will be stationed on site for the duration of the remediation to ensure routine acute patient care needs are immediately responded to.

• Jennifer Carpinteri, Director of Human Services, Shalom Friedland, Morris View Administrator, Joel Werzberger, Assistant Administrator, Frank Colon, the Building Engineer and many other key staff will be on site 24 hours a day for the duration of the remediation process.

Remediation is a long-term initiative and will continue with extensive follow-up analysis and testing periods.

The County of Morris remains committed to the safety and well-being of Morris View residents and their families, visitors and staff, and as such will continue to provide you with the most current information available.

The next Morris View Family Meeting will be held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6pm. Respective staff members will be in attendance to provide an update regarding this matter and to respond to questions. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 973-285-6040 or feel free to email me at jbonanni@co.morris.nj.us.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

John Bonanni
County Administrator

JB:ks
cc: Deena Leary, Assistant County Administrator
    Jennifer Carpinteri, Director, Department of Human Services
    Dr. Carlos Perez, Jr., Director of Morris County Health Management
Dear Morris View Resident, Family members, Friends and Staff:

In a letter dated July 5, 2018, I wrote to you making you aware that one Morris View resident had tested positive for Legionella bacteria. On July 12, 2018, a Family Meeting was held at Morris View Healthcare Center to provide additional information and address questions and concerns.

To assure ongoing communication regarding the Legionella bacteria at Morris View Healthcare Center, I want to provide the latest information received from environmental testing professionals and Allaire medical professionals:

- Between July 5 and July 9, 2018, forty-eight (48) water samples were taken at the direction of the New Jersey State Department of Health from strategically identified locations throughout the Morris View facility, in order to better direct the remediation strategy. Twenty-four (24) of those samples, distributed throughout the facility, detected various amounts of the Legionella bacteria.

- As discussed at the July 12, 2018 Family Meeting, proactive measures were taken to test any resident who exhibited even minor signs and symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g. cough). To date, ten (10) residents have been tested and ALL ten (10) residents were NEGATIVE for the legionella bacteria. Testing of residents who exhibit such illness will continue.

Experienced professional contractors, engineering professionals and remediation experts continue to analyze the facility’s entire plumbing system to design and implement a facility-wide remediation plan. Remediation is a long-term initiative and will continue with extensive follow-up analysis and testing periods.

As detailed in the prior communication, precautions have already been taken throughout the facility to protect residents, visitors, and staff. These precautions, which include the removal of faucet aerators and installation of showerhead filters, will be effective in areas where the bacteria has been located and are in keeping with United States Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and NJ Department of Health guidelines.

The County of Morris remains committed to the safety and well-being of Morris View residents and their families, visitors and staff, and as such will continue to provide you with the most current information available.

The next Morris View Family Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 6pm. Respective staff members will be in attendance to provide an update regarding this matter and to respond to questions. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 973-285-6040 or feel free to email me at jbonanni@co.morris.nj.us.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

John Bonanni
County Administrator

July 20, 2018
July 5, 2018

Dear Morris View Residents, Family members, Friends and Staff:

Morris County was recently notified by State and Local Public Health officials of one case of Legionnaire's disease infection in a resident at Morris View Healthcare Center. That patient has recovered and returned to the facility. To date, no additional cases of Legionnaire's disease have been identified at Morris View.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information about Legionnaire’s Disease and most importantly the actions undertaken by the County to keep our residents, their families, visitors, and the staff safe.

Legionellosis, or Legionnaire’s disease, is a form of pneumonia caused by *Legionella* bacteria. *Legionella* bacteria are found naturally in the environment and rarely cause illness. *Legionella* can also grow in water found in hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems, and decorative fountains. Legionnaire’s disease typically occurs in persons who are susceptible to infection, including persons who smoke, individuals with chronic lung disease, the elderly, or persons who are immunocompromised.

Persons who are susceptible to Legionnaire’s disease can be infected when they breathe in steam, mist or vapor from a water source that is contaminated with the *Legionella* bacteria. Legionnaire’s disease is rarely, if ever, transmitted from person to person.

Symptoms of infection include high fever, chills, cough, body aches, headache and fatigue. Legionnaire’s disease typically begins 2 to 10 days after exposure to the bacteria. The disease can be treated effectively with antibiotics.

In response to the one case of Legionnaire’s disease, the County of Morris has taken the following steps:

✓ The County’s Director of Health Management has established and maintains direct communication with the local Health Officer and the State Epidemiologist regarding the development and implementation of a permanent and approved corrective action plan
✓ Any Morris View resident that exhibits respiratory distress will be immediately tested
✓ All water fountains within the facility have been disabled and bottled water coolers will be brought in
Filters have been placed on all showerheads within the facility
✓ Aerators have been removed from all sinks
✓ Filters have been installed in the beauty salon sinks
✓ Ice machines have been cleaned and sanitized with filters being installed

Experienced professional contractors, including environmental testing professionals, remediation professionals, and engineering professionals have been engaged to analyze the facilities entire plumbing system as well as to design and implement a remediation plan. This is likely to be a longer term initiative and will commence as soon as possible with extensive follow-up analysis and testing periods.

The County of Morris is committed to the safety and well-being of our residents, families, visitors, and staff, and as such will continue to provide you with the most current available information.

As part of the Morris View Family Meeting to be held on July 12, 2018 at 6 pm, respective staff members will be in attendance to provide an update regarding this matter and to respond to specific questions raised. In the meantime should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 973-285-6040 or feel free to email me at jbonanni@co.morris.nj.us.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

John Bonanni
County Administrator

JB:ks
cc: Deena Leary, Assistant County Administrator
    Jennifer Carpinteri, Director, Department of Human Services
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