**MEMORANDUM**

DATE

To: FACILITY NAME residents, families, and staff

From: FACILITY NAME administration

Re: Legionnaire’s disease

We are providing our staff, residents, and families with this letter to provide information about recent cases of Legionnaire’s disease at FACILITY NAME and measures we are taking to protect the health of our residents, staff and visitors.

Legionnaires’ disease is a form of pneumonia caused by the *Legionella* bacteria.

Symptoms include high fever, chills, cough, body aches, headache and fatigue. Individuals with Legionnaires’ disease may need to be hospitalized. The disease typically begins 2–10 days after exposure to the bacteria. It can be treated effectively with antibiotics.

*Legionella* bacteria are found naturally in the environment, usually in warm water, like the kind found in hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, large plumbing systems and decorative fountains. People can get infected when they breathe in a mist or vapor (small droplets of water in the air) that has been contaminated with *Legionella* bacteria.

Most people who are exposed to the *Legionella* bacteria do not become ill. *Legionella* does **NOT** spread from person-to-person.

As of DATE, XX facility residents have tested positive for *Legionella* infection. XX of these patients were found through testing persons who had had pneumonia in the past 6 months. Their testing was conducted after the first Legionnaires’ disease case was diagnosed in order to determine if there had been previous, unrecognized cases. All are recovering.

FACILITY NAME is working closely with the XX County Health Department and the North Carolina Division of Public Health to investigate the source of these infections and take actions to prevent other people from becoming ill.

Despite the fact that FACILITY NAME has not been definitively identified as the source, we have are taking a number of proactive measures in cooperation with the XX Health Department in an effort to protect the safety and well-being of our residents, staff and visitors. Most of the precautions are related to the facility’s water system and may involve some inconvenience to staff and residents. However, it is our opinion and the opinion of the XX Health Department that these measures are necessary in our continued effort to provide the highest level of care and protection to our residents. These control measures include:

* Using bottled water for drinking, rinsing the mouth, brushing teeth, and shaving
* Not using showers or bathing tubs until filters are placed on showers and faucets
* Restricting admission of new residents while the investigation is ongoing
* Restricting visitors who are immune compromised while the investigation is ongoing

FACILITY NAME is also working to install special filters that are 100 percent effective in removing *Legionella* bacteria on all sinks and showers currently in use. In addition, we have engaged / will engage the services of an engineering consulting company to conduct testing for *Legionella* bacteria in the facility and help with remediation if indicated. We continue to conduct proactive monitoring for signs and symptoms of Legionnaires’ disease in residents.

FACILITY NAME is committed to the safety and well-being of our residents and staff. We will continue to provide you with the most current information. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.