



08 Nov 2024

To the Kings Point Community,

This correspondence is an update to the 29 October communication regarding positive Legionella test results from Palmer Hall. "On 16 October, 2024, the contractor took twenty-three water samples from different water sources throughout Palmer Hall; five of the samples returned a positive result for legionella bacteria."

Update:

1. Test results for the men's restroom, 1st floor, Palmer Hall, were returned negative for Coliform.
2. DPW is in the process of water testing on campus quarters, no positive results have been received as of this notice.
3. DPW has inspected hot water storage tanks to ensure water temperatures are maintained at a minimum of 140 degrees Fahrenheit, limiting growth of Legionella in hot water distribution systems.
4. The Academy is in the process of contracting an Industrial Hygienist to assist with water management. This effort will include managing, monitoring, and testing of lead, asbestos, mold and water. After an initial planning effort, this contract service will be "as needed."
5. The Academy continues to consult with the Great Neck Water Authority on all water issues and concerns. The Academy has implemented their recommendations to continually flush water distribution systems.
6. The Academy has contracted for the treatment of domestic water systems in Tomb Field, O'Hara Hall, and the Barracks Complex. The contractor has super chlorinated 14 Academy water storage tanks. Treated systems will be tested on 11 November. Test results should be available after 10 days. The test results will determine if further immediate action is required.
7. The janitorial service provider completed power washing of the barracks shower facilities.
8. DPW continues to flush water systems while awaiting test results.

The working group will continue to keep the community updated on these efforts.

General Legionella Information:

Common sources of infection are often associated with large or complex water sources such as cooling towers, decorative fountains, hot tubs, water used for showering, and lakes and streams. After Legionella grows and multiplies in a water system, it can spread via droplets (aerosolization), small enough for people to breathe in. Breathing in Legionella can lead to people contracting Legionnaires' disease. Those at increased risk are adults 50 years or older, current or former smokers, and people with a weakened immune system. In 2018, nearly 10,000 cases of Legionnaires' disease were reported in the United States.

Symptoms of Legionnaires disease may include coughing, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, and fever. If you have worked or been present in Palmer Hall, and develop these symptoms, you should contact your health care provider and mention that you may have been exposed to Legionella. Additionally, we recommend you report your status to your supervisor at the Academy.

We value your continued support and thank you in advance for your patience. Below are links for additional information. Please contact the undersigned to address questions or concerns.

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/causes/index.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/drinking-water/prevention/preventing-waterborne-germs-at-home.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/preventing-waterborne-germs-at-home.html

Sincerely,

Jeffery M. Thomas
Director of Public Safety
(516) 726.5846
thomasj@usmma.edu