

10/20/09

Dear Stadium Place Residents,

We are writing to keep you informed about the investigation of Legionnaire's disease that has been confirmed in four Stadium Place residents and the family member of one resident.

As you are aware, the Baltimore City Health Department Interim Commissioner Olivia Farrow and members of her staff, along with the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), held a meeting open to all residents on Friday, 10/16/09. At that meeting they provided oral and written information about "Legionellosis," explained that they are investigating the issue, suggested ways to remain safe while living at Stadium Place, and answered questions. Later that same day, they sent another paper that was distributed to every apartment, entitled, "Legionellosis Information for Residents of Stadium Place Apartments."

Now, this will update you about what has occurred since last Friday. On Saturday, 10/17/09, DHMH took more than 100 water samples from a variety of sites at Stadium Place. These samples arrived at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta today and are being tested for Legionella. We have been told that it takes 12 – 14 days for conclusive results. We also have engaged a private company to perform testing, and samples for this purpose were taken on Monday, 10/19/09, with more sampling planned for the public water source on 10/21/09.

Today we met again with officials from the city Health Department, DHMH, and the CDC. They intend to continue the investigation while awaiting the test results. As part of the investigation, they would like to meet very soon with residents of some of the apartment buildings at Stadium Place. They have decided to start with Venable Apartments II and Ednor Apartments II. We will have sign-up sheets available for you to select a time, if you are willing to meet with them. More information about these interviews will be sent to you this week.

In the interim, we would like to remind you of the following:

What Persons Can Do to Reduce the Risk for Illness

- Take baths instead of showers.
 - While filling the tub, leave the bathroom.
 - Fill the tub slowly and carefully to minimize the production of water sprays/mists.
- Use your dishwasher instead of the sink to wash dishes.
- If you have special concerns about your risk for this infection, you might consider using boiled or bottled water for drinking or brushing teeth.
 - While boiling water, do not inhale the direct mist.
 - It is best to put the pot on the stove and leave the room.

If you are not feeling well, please contact your health care provider and inform him or her that you live in a location where some residents have been diagnosed with Legionella.