



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bruce Rauner
Governor

Hugo Chaviano
Director

February 8, 2016

Erica Jefferies, Director
Illinois Department Of Veterans Affairs
833 South Spring Street
P.O. Box 19432
Springfield, IL 62794-9432

RE: Illinois OSHA Inspection No. 1090667 – IL Veterans Home-Quincy

Dear Director Jeffries:

Illinois OSHA conducted a complaint investigation conducted on 09/08/15. During the inspection it was discovered that there was a safety concern that while not violating any OSHA standards, should be addressed.

In the interest of workplace safety and health, I recommend that you voluntarily take the following steps to ensure that those working at your facilities are protected:

- An outbreak of legionella bacteria consequently lead to exposure and illnesses of two employees infected. The employer failed to effectively notify *all* employees of the outbreak or instructed them as to proper precautions to avoid or eliminate exposure in a timely manner. It was discovered that although a mass email was sent to employees informing them of the outbreak, not all employees had email, and subsequently were not able to be informed until sometime after the first email was sent. It is recommended that the employer devises a system that ensures all employees are alerted when such outbreaks are determined so the employer and employees can take the proper precautions to protect themselves from the hazard(s).

We ask that you provide Illinois OSHA with reports and documentation on your efforts to address this alleged hazard. The following resources are available and should be of assistance to you in preventing work-related injuries and illnesses in your workplace:

- No-cost consultation, including onsite visits from the Illinois On-site Safety & Health Program. They may be contacted at 800-972-4216.
- OSHA's internet web page at www.osha.gov.

Michael A Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle, Suite C-1300
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3150
(312) 793-2800
Fax: (312) 793-5257

900 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 782-6206
Fax: (217) 782-0596

Regional Office Building
2309 West Main Street, Suite 115
Marion, Illinois 62959
(618) 993-7090
Fax: (618) 993-7258

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tim Rienstra of my staff at 217-785-7056 or tim.rienstra@illinois.gov. Thank you for your continued interest for a safe and healthful workplace.

Respectfully,

Ben Noven
Division Manager
IL OSHA

cc: Lynn Winnicki, Mike Beveans-AFSCME, Brittany Heinecke-AFSCME, & Chad Jackson-AFSCME, Complainant, & file