



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Under Secretary for Health  
Washington DC 20420

July 24, 2014

The Honorable Tim Murphy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

This is in response to your letter regarding the United States (U.S.) Attorney's November 21, 2013, announcement on the Legionella outbreak at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS). I assure you that both VA and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) leadership take any patient death very seriously, and VA is committed to providing the best quality, safe, and effective health care our Veterans have earned and deserve. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

VAPHS has extended its condolences to the families of the Veterans with Legionella who died. VA is dedicated to doing whatever it takes to minimize the risk of Legionella and create the safest environment possible for our Nation's Veterans to heal.

With the investigation by the U.S. Attorney and VA Office of Inspector General completed, VHA has initiated administrative actions related to the outbreak. As is customary, the administrative review was initially paused to avoid interfering with the ongoing investigations. VHA leadership has initiated actions with careful consideration of the statutory protections and rights of employees, including due process. While we are focused on completing this process in a timely manner, VHA's priority is to carry out these actions objectively and consistent with applicable administrative guidelines. Three of the five cases for the individuals who VA initiated actions against have been completed. Again, VA is committed to providing the best quality, safe, and effective health care our Veterans have earned and deserve and extend our condolences to the families of the Veterans with Legionella who died.

The information in this letter, when combined with other information, may reveal the identity and personal information of specific individuals. VA protects the information carefully, consistent with statutory and regulatory requirements and trusts that your office will protect this information accordingly. Should you have any additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Aakash Bhatt, Congressional Relations Officer, at (202) 461-6444 or by email at [Aakash.Bhatt@va.gov](mailto:Aakash.Bhatt@va.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn M. Clancy".

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD  
Interim Under Secretary for Health