

Ref. No: 2122
Date: 20/10/25
Subject: Infection Control Teams

REQUEST & RESPONSE

1. Name of NHS Trust/Foundation Trust:

Type here: Mersey & West Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

2. Has your organisation reviewed NHS Estates Technical Bulletin 2024/3 with the specific note on non-tuberculous mycobacteria? (Yes/No - Double click the box to select – choose 'ticked')

☒ Yes
☐ No

3. Does your organisation treat any of the “high-risk” patient groups listed in the NHS Estates Technical Bulletin 2024/3? Tick all that apply (Double click the box to select).

☐ Lung and/or heart transplant
☐ Cystic fibrosis
☒ Haematology/oncology patients with neutropenia,
☐ CAR-T cell patients
☐ Other solid organ transplant,
☒ Patients with long-term lines

4. Do you have a Water Safety Group or equivalent multidisciplinary body for any water-related issues? (Yes/No - Double click the box to select).

☒ Yes
☐ No

Comment (type here):

5. Do you currently conduct routine environmental water testing for NTM? (Yes/No - Double click the box to select). If yes, please state the areas tested and the frequency of testing.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Areas tested (type here):

Frequency (type here):

6. Does your Water Safety Plan include specific controls for NTM, separate from general Legionella/Pseudomonas measures? (Yes/No - Double click the box to select) - If yes, please specify.

☐ Yes
☒ No

Specify (Type here):

7. If NTM testing is undertaken, which laboratory/method is used, and is it UKAS-accredited to ISO 17025 for NTM testing or according to the methods suggested in the bulletin? Double click the box to select

☐ N/A - no testing undertaken

If testing, which laboratory/method is used? (type here):

Is testing method accredited (type here):

8. If you have tested, have you detected NTM in water samples from patient care areas in the last 3 years? (Yes/No; if yes, please indicate the area(s) and summarise the control measures taken).

☐ Yes
☐ No

☐ N/A (have not tested for NTM)

Specify areas (type here):

Summarise control measures (type here):

9. Which control and/or remedial measures are you currently using to manage waterborne pathogens in your organisation? Tick all that apply (Double click the box to select)

☒ Point-of-use filters
☒ Temperature controls

☒ Chemical controls (any, i.e. chlorine, silver-copper ionization)
☒ Pipe removal work (including new copper pipes)

☒ Descaling and cleaning of water outlets
☐ Complete removal of outlets/sink

☐ Other (please list below)

Other (type here):

10. In the last 5 years, have you made any design changes in high-risk areas specifically to reduce waterborne infection risk (e.g., removal or relocation of sinks, drainage modifications, point-of-entry filtration)? (Yes/No; please provide brief examples).

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide brief examples (type here):

In the last 5 years, there have been numerous schemes, of varying costs, across all five sites within Merseyside & West Lancashire NHS Teaching Hospital Trust. Some improvements to reduce waterborne infections have been part of larger projects, some improvements directly to reduce waterborne infection, such as the installation of splash barriers, installation of non-splash sinks and taps. All of which are implemented to ensure HTM 04-01 Safe water in healthcare premises compliance.

The Trust engage regularly with an independent Authorised Engineer to provide assurance and give recommendations for improvement across all Trust sites.

An additional layer of governance, there is a HTM compliant Water Safety Group that presides bi-monthly.

For all projects, engagement with our Trust water AE and the Water Safety Group, our IPC team are critical for advice and knowledge to prevent or reduce the risk of waterborne infections.

11. Are you planning any major refurbishment in the next 5 years and/or is your organization part of the NHS New Hospital Programme? (Tick all that apply)

- ☒ Yes - planning refurbishment works
- ☐ Yes - part of the NHS New Hospital Programme
- ☐ No - neither

Comment (type here): MWL Trust will be taking part in major refurbishment projects over the next 5 years but not part of the NHS New Hospital Programme.