

To: Infection Control Teams

Dear Colleagues,

We are carrying out a short 10 question survey to understand how NHS Trusts are implementing the guidance from *NHS Estates Technical Bulletin 2024/3: Designing safe spaces for patients at high risk of infection from nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) and other waterborne pathogens*.

This survey is being carried out to gain insight into how the recommendations of the bulletin have informed local water safety practice and capital planning across NHS organisations; and to identify common challenges in water safety management across healthcare settings. A summary of anonymised findings will be shared with participating Trusts on request.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we seek the following information within your NHS Trust / NHS Foundation Trust:

1. Name of NHS Trust/Foundation Trust:

Type here: East London NHS Foundation Trust

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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

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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

The Trust has reviewed question 3 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—*

*(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and*

*(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide treatment for such high-risk patient groups as listed above. The Trust is therefore unable to provide a response.

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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):

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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):

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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):

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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):

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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):

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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):

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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

