FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 19, 2018

THE QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTER AND THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT SUSPECTED LEGIONELLA CASES

Steps are being taken to investigate these cases and ensure safety of patients and staff.

HONOLULU - The Queen’s Medical Center (Queen’s) and the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) report four cases of Legionella infection recently treated at Queen’s – Punchbowl.

Queen’s and DOH are working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate these cases and all potential sources of Legionella exposure, within and outside of the hospital.

Queen’s is proactively asking all healthcare providers to take additional precautions with patients who are at greatest risk of contracting Legionellosis. We are recommending that high-risk patients avoid exposure to tap water in any form while at Queen’s.

Additionally, we have taken a number of measures to ensure the safety and well being of our patients and staff, some of which include:

- Increased chlorination of water
- Increased surveillance water cultures and testing in conjunction with DOH and water experts
- Replacement of laminar flow devices on faucets
- Scheduled running of showers and faucets as part of routine room cleaning

Legionella is spread through water that has been aerosolized (i.e. water that has become airborne through spraying, misting, splashing, etc.). It is most likely to occur in people who have weakened immune systems. It is not readily transmissible from person to person. Legionella is found in water and soil, and most people exposed to the bacteria do not become ill.

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The Queen’s Medical Center (Queen’s), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, is an acute care medical facility accredited by The Joint Commission. The facility is licensed for 575 acute beds and serves as the major tertiary and quaternary referral center for cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, orthopaedics, surgery, emergency medicine and behavioral health medicine. It is the state’s designated trauma center verified as Level I by the American College of Surgeons. It has the only organ transplantation program in Hawaii. Queen’s is a major teaching hospital, serving as a
clinical training site for the residency programs sponsored by the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. Queen’s is the only hospital in Hawaii to achieve Magnet® status – the highest institutional honor for hospital excellence – from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.