



October 16, 2008

Dear Polo Towers Guest/Resident:

Recently, the Southern Nevada Health District received information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that two persons who stayed at Polo Towers in August and September 2008 were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease (a serious form of pneumonia caused by *Legionella* bacteria). CDC reviewed information in the National Disease Surveillance System and identified two additional persons who had been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease, one in October 2007 and the other in November 2007, and had also stayed at Polo Towers before their illnesses began. All four persons were successfully treated with antibiotics and have fully recovered.

In response to this information, the health district in conjunction with the CDC and with the full cooperation of Polo Tower's management, immediately conducted an environmental assessment and obtained water samples to determine if the bacteria that cause this illness are present in the Polo Towers complex. Preliminary results of these tests have confirmed that the bacteria were present in water samples taken last week. The final results of all sample testing will not be available before Monday October 20th.

In order to prevent additional illness and identify any other persons who may have been diagnosed with pneumonia after staying at Polo Towers we ask the following:

- If you have stayed at the Polo Towers within the past 14 days, please refer to the attached fact sheet with information about the illness and seek medical attention if you develop symptoms. If you experience symptoms of Legionnaires' disease, please show your physician this letter and ask your physician to contact the Southern Nevada Health District information line at (702) 759-4636 (INFO) or toll free at (866) 767-5038 as soon as possible after your diagnosis.
- If you have stayed at the Polo Towers in the past year and were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease by a physician or if you were hospitalized with pneumonia, please contact the health district information line at (702) 759-4636 (INFO) or toll free at (866) 767-5038 so that we may obtain additional information about your illness.
- If you are planning to stay at Polo Towers in the near future, please refer to the attached fact sheet to find out if you are at increased risk for acquiring Legionnaires' disease. If you have one or more of the risk factors outlined below, review the information on how to avoid being exposed or consider rescheduling your visit at a later date. If you decide to stay at Polo Towers in the near future, limiting showering and taking short showers may help reduce your risk of getting Legionnaires' disease.

The health district is working with the management of the Polo Towers to take prompt and appropriate actions to protect the health of guests and employees and to disinfect the water system. The health district has attached a Fact Sheet to provide information about Legionnaires' disease and has also established a number where persons can obtain additional information at (702) 759-4636 (INFO) or toll free at (866) 767-5038. For more information on Legionnaires' disease visit the CDC's website @ http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/patient_facts.htm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence K. Sands, DO". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lawrence Sands, DO, MPH
Chief Health Officer

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