

OUTBREAK OF LEGIONELLA IN A HEALTHCARE FACILITY

A healthcare facility contacted us for help after a severe Legionella outbreak that resulted in illnesses, deaths, and lawsuits.

PROBLEM

- The healthcare facility had a Legionella outbreak resulting in more than a dozen cases of Legionnaires' disease and 2 patient deaths
- The legal cost and reparations for the facility totaled \$63 million
- Vendor approached the facility, who purchased a chlorine dioxide generator to kill the Legionella
- EPA discovered that the chlorine dioxide generator was in use without their approval
- The EPA ordered the facility to test for chlorites at an external laboratory
- The EPA also required the facility to become a Public Water System (PWS)

RESULT

With the new laboratory and testing procedures in place and the correct dosage of chemicals from the chlorine dioxide generator, the facility has maintained compliance and safety for over 5 years, with no EPA violations. The implementation of proper testing and documentation ensures their water is safe and provides documentation should future legal issues arise.

SOLUTION

The EWS team:

- Worked with the EPA to build the first onsite private chlorite-testing laboratory in Ohio
- Carried out research and sourced laboratory equipment
- Applied for and received EPA approval for laboratory testing
- Worked with the chlorine dioxide generator vendor to set chemical dosing that brought chlorine dioxide and chlorites within acceptable EPA limits
- Met EPA requirements as a certified operator
- Helped the facility meet Public Water System (PWS) filing and regulatory requirements
- Trained the facility staff to become EPA Certified Water Analysts



CONTACT

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