



# CASE STUDY

## Long Term Care (LTC) Assisted Living

### The Client:

This long-term care facility (LTC) provided a range of services from on-site acute care to assisted living services. As part of a system wide policy, this facility had a long history of proactively monitoring their water systems for *Legionella*. Cultures had been consistently negative.

### The Problem:

The recent diagnosis of Legionnaires' disease in a resident prompted the local health department to institute costly and arbitrary measures to prevent additional cases. The facility cooperated with the health department, but needed expert guidance to effectively manage the situation. The LTC facility was faced with disruption in patient care services and the prospect of needing to implement a costly emergency remediation plan. A knowledgeable and credible third party assessment was needed to create a solution.

### The Challenges:

Public health authorities are often under pressure to take quick action in response to a case of Legionnaires' disease. The LTC facility was under pressure to comply with the directives of the health department. The administrative staff of the LTC facility had evidence that the source of the *Legionella* was not their water system. They had 2 years of negative environmental cultures from SPL to prove it. What they lacked was the knowledge and expertise to effectively communicate with the health department.

### The Evidence-based Solution:

Drs. Victor L. Yu and Janet E. Stout had the expertise they needed. They communicated directly with the public health professionals on behalf of the LTC facility. Dr. Yu furnished antibiotic therapy recommendations to the physicians. Drs. Yu and Stout had the knowledge and expertise to speak authoritatively on the subject of Legionnaires' disease and to work out a solution that was measured and appropriate for the circumstance.

Our team of experts addressed patient management issues, microbiological analysis, interpretation of results, water treatment and engineering support. This integrated approach achieved the desired results; a cost effective and effectively managed plan. It should be emphasized that the final approved plan was easier to implement and less costly compared to the original plan submitted to the facility by the public health authorities.

### The Outcome:

The client avoided costly and long-term remediation by being able to provide the health department with an action plan based on the objective evidence communicated by the SPL team.

### The Impact:

The proactive approach of routinely culturing their water system saved this facility thousands of dollars in unnecessary long-term remediation.

A key factor in the success of this project was our ability to effectively communicate an evidence-based approach to prevention. **This is the SPL Advantage.**