

Wendy Dale
Domestic Services Manager
York Hospital
Wigginton Road
YO31 8HE

Date: 29th June 2009

Hospital Microfibre Bacteriological Monitoring Visit

Dear Wendy

Please find attached the microbiological results following the recent visit to York District Hospital on the 13th May 2009. Samples were taken pre/post laundering to evaluate the effectiveness of OTEX disinfection process. Individual microfibre cloths/mops were randomly selected Pre and Post processing with OTEX All samples were handled in an aseptic manner and analysed by an independent laboratory, which is UKAS accredited, Microsearch Laboratories Ltd and Huddersfield University.

The results demonstrate the effectiveness of the disinfection of the OTEX process on microfibre cloths and mops. Whilst *C.difficile* was detected in the pre laundered items no clostridium species was detected in any of the processed cloths or mops.

At the time of the site visit the following observations were made:

- Overloading of the washing machines was witnessed together with mixed loads of microfibre cloths and mops. Overloading has an impact on the wash quality and the mechanical condition of the machines.
- The filters on the wall mounted ozone and oxygen generator units were found to be dirty on both occasions. It is important that the filters are kept clean to ensure the system is working effectively.
- Lack of hygiene observed following the handling of contaminated mops and cloths by staff at York.
- At the time of the site visit washing machine No 1 wasn't validating. This was brought to the attention of the Domestic Manager and subsequently reported to JLA service department for their attention. During conversation with staff operating the machines at York it appeared that there was very little understanding of the validation system and the procedures to follow should a wash cycle fail the disinfection criteria. Information on the OTEX system including validation procedures should be displayed within the laundry room and refresher training is recommended.

I trust this meets with your requirements. Should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Lara Wade (Account Manager) or Jackie Hook (Chemist) on Halifax (01422) 822282.

Microbiological Test Results Pre/Post OTEX Laundry Process (Cfu/g)					
Sample Description	Originating Laboratory	Lab Ref No:	State	Total Viable Count (TVC)	C. difficile
Microfibre Mop	Huddersfield University	443	Pre	5.10E+08	N.D.
Microfibre Mop	Microsearch Laboratories Ltd	448	Pre	3.10+07	96
Microfibre Mop	Huddersfield University	450	Post	1.90E+02	N.D.
Microfibre Mop	Huddersfield University	446	Post	N.D.	N.D.
Microfibre Mop	Microsearch Laboratories Ltd	450	Post	1.10E+03	<1
Microfibre Mop	Microsearch Laboratories Ltd	451	Post	5.60E+02	<1
Microfibre Cloth	Huddersfield University	444	Pre	3.30E+05	N.D.
Microfibre Cloth	Microsearch Laboratories Ltd	449	Pre	3.10E+08	96
Microfibre Cloth	Huddersfield University	447	Post	4.10E+04	N.D.
Microfibre Cloth	Microsearch Laboratories Ltd	452	Post	<1	<1

Legend:

< = Less than.

N.D. None Determined

PRE

POST