



April 5, 2011

Lisa Maragakis, M.D., M.P.H
Assistant Professor of Medicine,
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD 21205

Dear Dr. Maragakis—

I am writing in regard to your recent study of hands-free faucets in use in certain sections of Johns Hopkins Hospital. PMI is the voluntary, not-for-profit, international, industry association. Our members produce about 95 percent of North America's plumbing products as well as a substantial quantity of the world's plumbing products. PMI's goals include:

- Promoting the water efficiency, health, safety, quality and environmental sustainability of plumbing products;
- Providing a forum for the exchange of information and industry education
- Representing the members' interests and advocating for sound environmental and public health policies in the regulatory/legislative processes.

With that in mind, we were most interested to learn of your study, as our members manufacture most of the hands-free plumbing products in use around the world. For the past 20-plus years, hands-free faucets have been conserving water – sometimes up to 75% - and minimizing the spread of disease by eliminating direct personal contact with contaminated surfaces. PMI and its member companies are committed to providing safe and reliable products, and we meet the highest industry standards. Our members manufacture plumbing products that are independently certified to all applicable product standards to ensure they are safe for use in all applications.

While the results of your study are of interest to us, we are at a disadvantage since we have not yet seen it. From news reports it appears that your study was limited to one particular type of hands-free faucet in only certain sections of the hospital. As we understand it, while some bacteria levels were slightly elevated in water from some of the hospital's hands-free faucets, there were no cases of anyone becoming ill or becoming infected as a result of the water from these faucets. As you know, legionella is usually present in water. The challenge for all end users is to find the healthiest and most efficient ways to limit its spread. We further understand that Johns Hopkins Hospital officials are keeping the hands-free faucets in public, non-patient care areas of the hospital, as the faucets would not pose a health risk to most healthy people.

Therefore, on behalf of PMI, I would like first and foremost to request a copy of your study, along with any supporting methodologies. Next, we would be interested in working with you and your team to study this issue, to ensure the safest possible plumbing products and technology are used both today and in the future. Among our membership are the foremost experts in the world on plumbing technology; and as that technology changes, we are committed to be on the leading edge of innovation, health and safety.

We look forward to working with you on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara C. Higgins'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara C. Higgins, Executive Director, PMI

Plumbing Manufacturers International

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