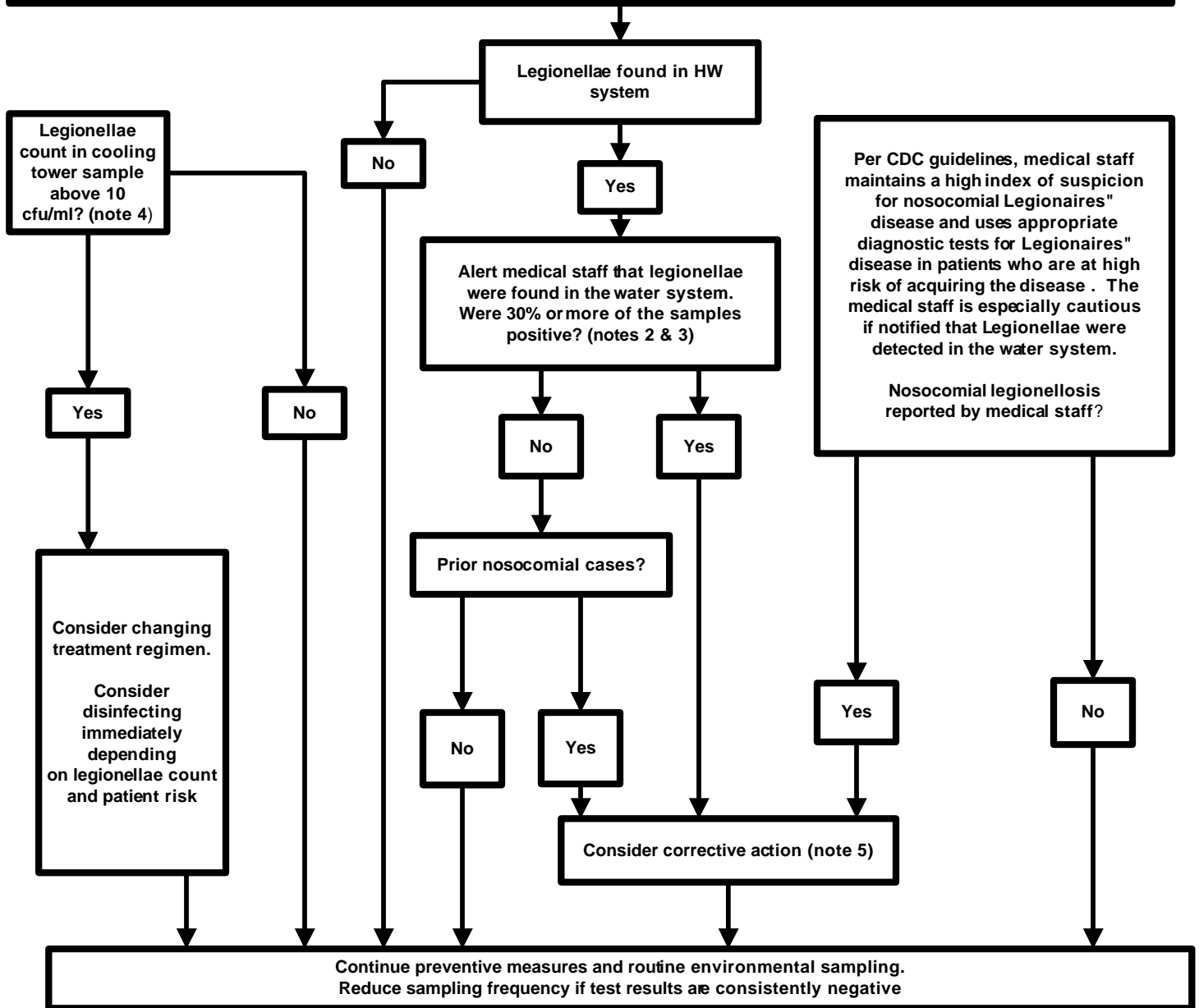


Legionellae Action Plan

Maintain facility to prevent legionellae growth
Consider environmental sampling to get feedback on preventative measures and risk management
but not as a substitute for preventative measures or appropriate patient surveillance.



IMPORTANT NOTES

1. No stringent set of guidelines will fit every facility every time. Therefore, this plan is only a starting point for decision making...not the final word
2. The 30 percent rule is arbitrary. It has been found that nosocomial legionellosis occurred when Legionellae were recovered from 30 percent or more of the selected water outlets, but disease can occur (and has) when fewer than 30 percent of the samples in a given screening test positive. Thus it may be prudent to disinfect systems even when fewer than 30 percent test positive, particularly if any of the positive outlets are in high risk areas or if any of the samples contained high Legionellae counts.
3. Consider the concentration in samples. In some cases, the level of Legionellae found in positive samples needs to be considered, rather than viewing the results as merely positive or negative. Consider the occupants when interpreting test results. Any positive sample taken from a high risk patient area is concern, but in areas occupied by low risk individuals (employees or low risk patients), samples containing a low Legionellae count may not present a high enough risk to warrant expensive remediation. Although there are no standard action levels for water sample results, this criteria established by most professionals may be a useful guide for low risk areas.
4. The level of 10cfu/ml, though arbitrary, seems an appropriate action level for hospitals that treat high risk patients.
5. Many factors need to be considered before deciding whether or not to take corrective action, and if so, what action to take. Facility management, Infection control, risk management and other appropriate staff will ultimately need to discuss all factors and decide upon a course of action.