**Example Letter – Invasive Mold Infection Cluster**

Dear [patient/family member name,]

We have recently noted a higher than usual number of infections in patients who have received care at our facility that is caused by a specific kind of fungus. These infections have happened in patients who have had weakened immune systems from a recent bone marrow transplant, chemotherapy for leukemia, or a very low white blood cell count (neutropenia) that lasted for several weeks or more. This type of pneumonia infection typically does not affect people whose immune systems are healthy. As you may know from conversations with your or your loved one’s care team, the risk of infection during treatment for cancer is a great concern due to the weakening of the immune system that often accompanies treatment.

We are contacting you because… [why patient was selected to receive letter]. We want to make sure you know how to protect yourself or your loved one from risks from this fungus, which commonly lives in the soil and other places in the environment. Spores from these fungi are common in air. People breathe in these spores every day.

**What we are doing to protect patients**

To protect our patients who are at risk of infection from fungus, our facility is taking several important precautions. These include conducting a thorough investigation to determine whether these recent infections originated inside the hospital and taking extra steps to make sure the air inside is as clean as possible.

**What you can do to protect yourself**

At this time, we don’t know where the fungus that infected these patients came from. We are currently assessing this issue and want to remind you of the following ways to reduce your risk of infection:

* Try to avoid areas with a lot of dust like construction or excavation sites. If you must be outdoors near these types of sites, wear an N95 mask. These are specialized masks that filter the air that you breathe. These are available in the clinic and the infusion center.
* Avoid activities that involve close contact to soil or dust, such as yard work or gardening. Do not go inside dusty places like barns, sheds or greenhouses, or be in the vicinity of home renovation projects (such as tearing down walls or pulling up carpets), mulching, plowing, or mowing.
* While on our campus, ask to be dropped off as close to the main entrance as possible and wait inside to be picked up.
* Take preventive antifungal medications if prescribed by your care team.

As always, if you/your loved one notice unexpected symptoms that could be a sign of infection, such as fever, headache that doesn’t go away, new cough, or sinus pain, contact your nurse coordinator to ask whether you/your loved one should be evaluated.

If you have any questions about your risk of infection, please call your nurse coordinator or talk to your nurse or physician at your next appointment. Thank you for trusting us with your care. We will keep you updated on anything we learn.

Your Care Team