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Craig Coffey
County Administrator
Flagler County FL.
1769 E Moody Blvd.
Building 2 suite #302
Bunnell, FL. 32110

Dear Mr. Coffey,

I have been asked to give an opinion regarding the possibility of human bacterial pathogens surviving from a community hospital vacated in 2002. The structure is now being considered for alternative uses, and the question has been posed as to whether future occupants of the building could be at risk from residual hospital pathogens.

The hospital pathogens of potential concern include *Staphylococcus aureus* (including MRSA), vancomycin resistant enterococci (VRE), *Salmonella* sp., *Shigella* sp. and enteric Gram negative bacilli. Based on my review of the pertinent literature, and my expertise in infectious disease and microbiology, survival of these bacterial pathogens for greater than a decade would be impossible. Survival of these types of bacteria is measured in days to months. Even with flooding and extremely high humidity to facilitate their survival, such organisms do not persist more than a year.

The reoccupation of this hospital, which has been vacant for eleven years, will not pose any risk from residual bacterial human pathogens.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Wallace, M.D., FACP, FIDSA