

## **Sterigenics Statement Regarding the Illinois Department of Public Health's Cancer Incidence Report**

**Chicago, IL – March 29, 2019**

Sterigenics is reviewing the recent report from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). While the heightened incidence rates for certain types of cancers in Willowbrook noted in the report warrant closer study, given the numerous “differences and inconsistencies” highlighted in the report it is unreasonable to use the findings as evidence of any link between ethylene oxide (EtO), Sterigenics and the incidence of cancer in the Willowbrook area. To be clear, while elevated incidences of certain cancers were noted in the report, “None of the three lymphohematopoietic cancers that previous studies have found to be associated with EtO...were found to be increased in either males or females.” As the IDPH clearly articulates “Any observed increase, in and of itself, is insufficient to draw conclusions regarding the potential impact of EtO exposure.”

The fact is that cancer is both a common and a complex disease with many potential causes and associated risk factors. As acknowledged by the IDPH, the report is limited by the fact that “many potential risk factors for cancer, including occupational exposure, smoking, diet, lifestyle, family history, and other medical conditions, are not collected by the current registry system and, as a result, their inclusion for analysis was not possible.” Furthermore, several of the cancers noted in the report have no previous association with EtO and incidence rates related to those cancers should be “viewed with an abundance of caution.”

The misinformation regarding EtO and Sterigenics has unnecessarily caused fears among the Willowbrook community and resulted in a shutdown of our Willowbrook facility, causing serious negative consequences for the patients who rely on the critical medical products and devices sterilized there. The essential fact remains that Sterigenics' state-of-the-art systems at its Willowbrook facility exceed regulatory requirements and represent one of this industry's highest control levels in the country.

As the EPA has indicated, there are other sources of EtO in Willowbrook unrelated to our facility, including the motor vehicle fuel exhaust from vehicles on highways close to Willowbrook noted in the report. We are working with the EPA and other officials to assess how various sources of EO contribute to overall EtO levels in the Willowbrook area. Sterigenics remains committed to working with regulators, legislators and Illinois public officials to evolve regulations and continuously improve our operations in the ongoing interest of public health.