






# LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

<b>VERSION No</b>	3	
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## Policy Statement







*Legionellosis is the collective name given to the pneumonia-like illness caused by legionella bacteria. This includes the most serious Legionnaires' disease, as well as the similar but less serious conditions of Pontiac fever and Lochgoilhead fever. Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia and everyone is susceptible to infection; however, some people are at higher risk, including:*

-  *People over 45 years of age*
-  *Smokers and heavy drinkers;*
-  *People suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease*
-  *Anyone with an impaired immune system.*

## Location and Sources of Legionella Bacteria






The bacterium *Legionella pneumophila* and related bacteria are common in natural water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs, but usually in low numbers. Since legionella bacteria are widespread in the environment, they may also contaminate and grow in purpose-built water systems such as cooling towers, evaporative condensers, hot and cold water systems and whirlpool spas. There are also a number of other systems that may pose a risk to exposure to legionella, e.g. humidifiers, air washers, emergency showers, indoor ornamental fountains.

Any water system that has the right environmental conditions could potentially be a source for legionella bacteria growth. There is a reasonably foreseeable legionella risk in your water system in the following circumstances:


-  Water is stored or re-circulated as part of your system
-  The water temperature in all or some part of the system is between 20–45°C
-  There are sources of nutrients such as rust, sludge, scale and organic matters
-  The conditions are likely to encourage bacteria to multiply
-  It is possible for water droplets to be produced and, if so, if they can be dispersed over a wide area, e.g. showers and aerosols from cooling towers
-  It is likely that any of your employees, residents, visitors etc. are more susceptible to infection due to age, illness, a weakened immune system etc. and whether they could be exposed to any contaminated water droplets.






## The Policy



This organisation recognises its responsibility and duty to take appropriate precautions to prevent or control the risk of exposure to legionella such as risk assessment. The risk assessment includes:

-  Any potential risk sources
-  Any controls currently in place to control risks
-  Monitoring, inspection and maintenance procedures, such as water t<sup>o</sup>
-  Records of the monitoring results, inspection and checks carried out
-  A review date.

If the risks are insignificant and comply with the law then the assessment is complete. Records include:

-  The person(s) responsible for conducting the risk assessment, managing, and implementing the written scheme

-  Any significant findings of the risk assessment
-  The written control scheme and its implementation
-  The date and results of any inspection, test or checks carried out
-  Details concerning the state of operation of the system, i.e. in use/not in use.
-  *These records should be retained throughout the period for which they remain current and for at least two years after that period. Records of the dates and results of the inspections must be kept for 5 years.*

-  If there is a case of Legionellosis in a resident or employee, it must be reported this under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).
-  A notification of a “serious injury” is required to be sent to the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

### Further Information





*Legionnaires’ disease. The control of legionella bacteria in water systems. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L8 (Third edition) HSE Books, 2001. ISBN 978 0 7176 1772 2 [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/L8.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/L8.htm)*

### Training

All staff cover the importance of the precautions put in place to prevent the spread of legionella in their health and safety training

*Related Policies  
Health and Safety  
Accidents and Incidents Reporting (RIDDOR)*

### Guidance

-  *Legionnaires’ disease. The control of legionella bacteria in water systems. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L8 (Third edition) HSE Books, 2001. ISBN 978 0 7176 1772 2 [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/L8.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/L8.htm)*
-  <http://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/>
-  [https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/Controlling\\_legionella\\_in\\_nursing\\_and\\_residential\\_care\\_homes.pdf](https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/Controlling_legionella_in_nursing_and_residential_care_homes.pdf)
-  *Legionella Control. Legionella compliance checklist for Care Homes*  
<https://legionellacontrol.com/articles/74-legionella-compliance-for-care-homes-self-audit-tool>

## LEGIONELLA: APPROVED CODE OF PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE (L8)

*Water quality – recommended tests and frequency of testing from Legionella's disease  
The control of legionella bacteria in water system*



No	SERVICE	TASKS / CHECKS / TESTS	FREQUENCY	MONITORED AS REQUIRED	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	CAN BE FOUND IN SECTION
1	<b>HOT AND COLD WATER</b>	Risk assessment FOR Legionella's disease	<b>Annually</b> <i>(or as and when changes to water service are made)</i>		Risks are identified, and is evident that the identified risks are low and are monitored as prescribed and managed	<b>A</b>
2	<b>HOT WATER</b>	a) Check water temperature up to one minute to see if it has reached 50°C in the sentinel taps.	<b>Monthly</b>		<i>The Sentinel taps are defined as the first and last taps on a water distribution system. For cold water systems the sentinel will be the nearest and furthest taps from the cold water storage tanks.</i>	<b>L</b>
		b) Check temperatures in flow and return at calorifiers.				<b>B</b>
		c) Arrange for samples to be taken from hot water calorifiers, in order to note condition of drain water.	<b>Annually</b>		Not feasible due to constant need for and use of hot water, however, if the condition of the hot water tanks is not in a good order then it will show in samples as in 2c and on the records D	<b>D</b>
		d) Visual check on internal surfaces of calorifier for scale and sludge.		Monitored by the TMV3 management and service systems		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TMV3</b> <i>section</i></p>
		e) Check representative taps for temperature as above on a rotational basis.				
3	<b>COLD WATER</b>	a) Check that temperature is below 20° after running the water for up to 2 minutes in the sentinel taps.	<b>Monthly</b>			<b>B</b>
		b) Check tank water temperature remote from ball valve and mains temperature at ball valve. Note maximum temperatures recorded by fixed min/max thermometers where fitted.	<b>Six Monthly</b>			<b>B</b>
		c) Visually inspect cold water storage tanks and carry out remedial works where necessary.				<b>G</b>
		d) Check representative taps for temperature as above on a rotational basis.	<b>Monthly</b>		<i>The Sentinel taps are defined as the first and last taps on a water distribution system. For hot systems the nearest and further from the water heater or calorifier.</i>	<b>L</b>
4	<b>SHOWER HEADS</b>	Dismantle, clean and descale shower heads and hoses.	<b>Quarterly</b> <i>(or as necessary)</i>			<b>C</b>
5	<b>LITTLE USED OUTLETS</b>	Flush through and purge to drain, or purge to drain immediately before use, without use of aerosols.	<b>Weekly</b>			<b>M</b>