



AQUACARE Water Hygiene

Legionella

Legionella bacterium, the cause of Legionnaires' disease, is common in many natural and man-made environments – and is controllable.

Legionnaires' disease acquired its name during an outbreak of pneumonia among American Legion convention attendees in Philadelphia. It can affect people of any age, most often those middle-aged and older with chronic lung disease or compromised immunity. Legionella is not contagious; transmission is via the inhalation of bacteria-contaminated water droplets.

Potential sources include cooling towers, evaporative coolers, hot and cold water systems, showers, whirlpool spas, fountains, room humidifiers, ice-making machines and similar aerosol sources fed from public water. Recent research has shown Legionella can travel some 6 km from its source by airborne spread.

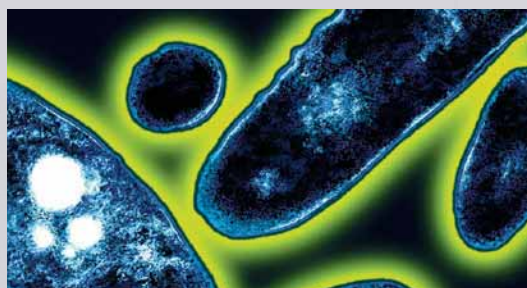
Legionella grow in warm (20°C to 50°C) water but reproduce fastest in stagnant water at 35°C to 46°C. At the heart of the HSC's ACoP L8 for Legionella control is the need to assess the entire water system - particularly dead legs and unused sectors - for risk of harbouring and nurturing the bacteria. When sufficient risk is deemed present, those responsible must put in place an effective monitoring and maintenance programme - and have a plan covering the event of an outbreak. We provide comprehensive water system risk assessments.



To control the proliferation of legionella bacteria:

Both Health and Safety and COSHH place significant responsibilities for Legionella bacteria prevention and control on those accountable for occupants of premises. To control Legionella:

- Avoid keeping water at temperatures between 20°C and 45°C (probably the most important preventative measure).
- Avoid allowing water to stagnate, which can encourage the growth of biofouling.
- Avoid the use of substances in the system that can harbour or provide nutrients for the bacteria and other organisms.
- Ensure the system operates safely, is well maintained and is kept clean to avoid the build-up of sediment, which may harbour - and nurture - bacteria.
- Instigate a suitable monitoring and maintenance programme where appropriate and safe.



Contact us for more information on the control of Legionella or visit the Health and Safety Executive website: www.hse.gov.uk

Water Hygiene

Heating

Insurance

Bathrooms

Drains

Plumbing

Developers



AquaCare Water Hygiene Services provides a complete water hygiene and treatment service, helping organisations meet the requirements of Health and Safety at Work, Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) L8 and the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations. Our customers enjoy peace of mind knowing their reputation - and the health and safety of their clients and customers - is in safe, professional hands.



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