

# CDC Guidelines on building reopening

## RE-OPENING OF PREVIOUSLY IDLE FEDERAL BUILDINGS

Stagnant or standing water in a plumbing system can increase the risk for growth and spread of Legionella and other biofilm-associated bacteria. When water is stagnant, hot water temperatures can decrease to the Legionella growth range (77–108°F, 25–42°C). Stagnant water can also lead to low or undetectable levels of disinfectant, such as chlorine. Ensure that your water system is safe to use after a prolonged shutdown or significantly reduced occupancy and water consumption to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.

People at increased risk of developing Legionnaires' disease, such as those with weakened immune systems, should consult with a medical provider regarding participation in flushing, cooling tower cleaning, or other activities that may generate aerosols. Wearing a half-face air-purifying respirator equipped with an N95 filter, or an N95 filtering facepiece, may be appropriate in enclosed spaces where aerosol generation is likely. Respirators must be used in accordance with a comprehensive respiratory protection program, which includes fit testing, training, and medical clearance ahead of their use (see OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.134). For more information about N95 respirators, visit the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) website.

For additional CDC guidelines concerning steps to reduce legionella visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

### How Waterlogic Addresses the risk of Legionella and Legionnaires' disease

It is a fact that as a result of the COVID Pandemic, many public federal buildings have either been shut down or are operating at reduced capacity, resulting in water systems idle or near idle. Legionella, the cause of Legionnaires' Disease, is a waterborne bacterium commonly found in natural water courses, usually in small volumes and poses a risk to human health. When the bacterium arrives in stagnant water maintained at a higher temperature, whether a boiler system, cooling tower, or condenser, it can quickly multiply, and significantly raise the risk level. If the infected water makes it into our respiratory system, either through ingestion or via airborne water droplets, a severe form of pneumonia can manifest; otherwise known as Legionnaires' Disease.

Scientists note that the bacterium only multiply within a specific temperature range between 68–113 °F, so wherever there is the possibility of bacterial growth, it is imperative we take the relevant precautionary measures.

No fixture is more susceptible to contamination than any other, so those who believe a single-handled faucet poses a higher risk than a double-handled tap, for example, need not worry. The danger stems from the water source, so routine maintenance and testing is vital.

### Who should be concerned?

Individuals contract the disease through inhaling droplets of contaminated water, with symptoms taking anywhere from two to ten days to appear. What starts as a headache and muscle pain will quickly evolve into breathing difficulties and gastrointestinal discomfort. The disease is similar to pneumonia but more severe, meaning public entities in all categories must heed warnings. Those in the hospitality industry, such as Disneyland, hotel operators, recreation centers and gyms managing steam rooms, hot tubs or swimming pools, or buildings where the water delivery system has been inactive need to remain vigilant and frequently test equipment.

Care homes and hospitals are high-risk environments as those most prone to infection commonly have a weakened immune system or have an underlying illness. Guaranteeing bacteria-free water is therefore of the highest priority. Airports, office buildings, and housing developments are further hotbeds for bacterial growth as they make use of large boiler systems or cooling towers.

### Waterlogic's Solution for Drinking Water

There is ample advice on avoiding outbreaks and by following guidelines, it is simple to mitigate dangers. Furthermore, by using and investing in water dispensers with purification systems, you can enjoy water without any impurities. The Waterlogic Firewall® UV sanitization technology plays a central role in providing bacteria-free drinking water and has proven its 99.9999% effectiveness against a range of bacteria and viruses.

Protect your employees and the public and go the extra mile when it comes to providing a safe source of water. After all, this could be a matter of life and death.