



REOPENING THE OFFICE OR BUILDING? STEPS TO PREVENT UNHEALTHY WATER

From West Yost,
a water-focused company

DEVELOP A WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Reduce the risk for Legionella growth and spread

Legionella is the bacterium that causes Legionnaire's disease, a serious lung infection. When building water systems are not maintained they can be at risk for Legionella. The CDC offers resources to support you:

- Toolkit to simplify ASHRAE Standard 188
- Training on Preventing Legionnaires' disease

PREVENT OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE



Review NIOSH recommendations to employers

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has made recommendations based on Health Hazard Evaluations (HHEs) where there were cases of Legionnaires' disease. *Preventing Occupational Exposure to Legionella* from NIOSH and the CDC provides a summary and additional information.

CHECK YOUR COOLING TOWER



Cooling towers should be cleaned and well-maintained

The manufacturer's guidelines will provide best practices for maintenance, start-up and shut-downs. A visual check for bio film should be performed as well as an online disinfection procedure. The CDC notes The Cooling Tower Institute can also be a resource.

TEND TO YOUR WHOLE WATER SYSTEM

Perform a system flush, clean water features, and check the water heater

Flush your water system as to thoroughly replace all the water inside the piping with new water. Use both hot and cold water. Water features/fountains should be cleaned and disinfectant levels checked after the water is replaced. Review the manufacturer's recommendations on draining your hot water heater and verify the temperature is within the CDC's range.



REFERENCES:

Guidance for Building Water Systems. April 2020. [CDC.org](https://www.cdc.gov)
Preventing Occupational Exposure to Legionella. September 2019. [CDC.org](https://www.cdc.gov)