

COVID In 20 Webcast

Like a COVID Bridge over Still Waters - *Legionella* Is the New Threat

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- Legionnaires' disease (LD) is caused by *Legionella*, a type of bacteria that can live in building water systems.
- *Legionella* bacteria like to grow in warm, stagnant water with low biocide.
- Buildings, or sections of buildings, that have had low use due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have water system conditions conducive to *Legionella* growth.
- Before reopening low or unused areas, consider if actions, such as flushing the water system, need to be taken to reduce the risk of healthcare-associated LD.



Vital^{CDC}signs™
www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/legionella



VA Resources:

VHA Directive 1061: Prevention of healthcare-associated *Legionella* disease and scald injury from potable water systems. https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=3033

Water safety website on the VHA National Infectious Diseases (NIDS) intranet site: <https://vaww.va.gov/INFECTIOUSDISEASES/WaterSafety.asp> (provides link to the VHA Healthcare Environment and Facilities Program [HEFP] intranet site on Water)

Implementation of *Legionella* Prevention Policy in Health Care Facilities: The United States Veterans Health Administration Experience. *J Public Health Manag Pract.* 2020;26(2):E1-E11.

<http://vaww.hefp.va.gov/resources/implementation-legionella-prevention-policy-health-care-facilities-united-states-veterans>

CDC Resources:

Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

Legionnaires' disease Clinician Guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/clinicians.html>

Special Considerations for Healthcare Facilities. <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/healthcare-facilities/index.html>

Water Management Program Toolkit <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html>

Preventing Legionnaires' Disease: A Training on *Legionella* Water Management Programs (PreventLD Training). <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/elearn/prevent-LD-training.html>