

**NJLINCS Health Alert Network**  
**Public Health Advisory**

*Distributed by the New Jersey Department of Health*

Subject: Maintaining and Reopening Building Water Systems Impacted by Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation - Minimizing Legionella and Opportunistic Bacteria Growth

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Attachments: None

**Key Points or Updates:**

Many buildings may be temporarily shut down or have reduced operations in normal water use due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Periods of little to no water usage may lead to conditions in building water systems which can promote the growth of Legionella and other opportunistic bacteria within weeks or months. To prevent Legionella growth, building water systems must be actively managed and maintained now to prevent future legionellosis outbreaks once buildings reopen or resume normal operations.

For building owners and managers whose building water systems are impacted by a prolonged shut down or reduced operation and would like to properly maintain their building water systems, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) developed the guidance document, Maintaining and Reopening Building Water Systems Impacted by Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation: Minimizing Legionella and Opportunistic Bacteria Growth. This guidance document is available on the NJDOH website at: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/legion.shtml>.

NJDOH requests that local health departments further distribute this guidance to building owners and managers in their jurisdiction. Consider working with local business associations or water utility companies to identify buildings that may be at increased risk. For questions, contact the Legionella team at [PreventLD@doh.nj.gov](mailto:PreventLD@doh.nj.gov).

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*LOCAL Health Educators; LOCAL Public Health Nurses; LOCAL REHS; LOCAL Epidemiologists; Business & Industry Leaders; DOH Program Staff; EMS Council; Food Safety Organizations; Health Care Organizations; Hospital Staff Directory; Occupational Health Organizations; Public Health Associations; Public Health Council*

*Further distribution of this message should be directed to: Community Organizations; Day Care Centers / Preschools; Educational Institutions; Local & County Government; Local Businesses; Local Media; Recreational Facilities; State & Federal Government Facilities; Transportation; Utilities; Animal Health Professionals; Community Health Centers (FQHCs); Emergency Medical Services / First Responders; Health Care Facilities / Other; Health Care Providers; Hospital CEOs; Hospital Emerg Preparedness Coords; Hospital ER Medical Directors; Hospital Infection Control Practitioners; Hospital Medical Directors; Hospital Nursing Directors; Hospital Security Directors; Hospitals / Other; Labs / Non-Sentinel; Labs / Sentinel; Pharmaceutical Suppliers; Local Boards of Health; and other partners in your region, as appropriate.*

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