

What you need to know about...

Your building water system and waterborne pathogens

How to assess your building to protect guests and staff:

- Complete this short worksheet to see if your building is at high risk for *Legionella* growth: <https://www.cdc.gov/control-legionella/php/toolkit/wmp-worksheet.html>
- Learn the basics of a water management program: <https://www.cdc.gov/control-legionella/php/wmp/index.html>
- Learn how to keep your pools and hot tubs safe for guest use: <https://www.cdc.gov/control-legionella/php/hospitality/index.html>
- Reach out with questions or concerns: Legionella.Health@tn.gov



What is *Legionella*?

Legionella are bacteria that can cause a serious lung infection called Legionnaires' disease. People can get sick when they inhale water droplets that contain the bacteria.



How does *Legionella* affect building water?

Legionella bacteria grow naturally in the environment and in water. They can also grow in building water systems. Buildings with large water systems, like hotels, may be more likely to grow *Legionella*. If the bacteria are present, they can be spread through aerosols produced by: hot and cold water systems, showerheads, decorative fountains, hot tubs, cooling towers, and more.



Why should you care?

Legionella may grow and spread in hotel water systems. Hotels often have a large number of visitors and numerous *Legionella* outbreaks have occurred at hotels.



What can you do to prevent *Legionella* and other waterborne diseases?

You can protect your guests and staff by assessing your water system and learning about water management programs. Using a water management program can help identify hazards in your water system and prevent the growth and spread of bacteria.



Recreational Water Illnesses - What You Should Know.

Preventing recreational water illnesses (RWIs) requires participation from pool staff, swimmers, and health departments. Poor maintenance can result in low disinfectant levels and the spread of a variety of germs that cause diarrhea as well as skin and respiratory RWIs.

