



COVID-19 and Legionella

The Health and Safety at Work Act still applies and duty holders must be taking reasonably practicable steps to control risk from legionella throughout this time.

There are legionella risks in vacant properties where water is allowed to stagnate within water systems. To manage the risks during non/under occupancy and workplaces which have become less occupied, consideration should be given to implementing a suitable flushing regime or other measures.

Find further guidance which is free of charge on the HSE's web page:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/legionella-landlords-responsibilities.htm>

Consideration is required of other water systems that are no longer in use, such as leisure, sports and swimming and spa pool facilities. We suggest that for these facilities, you should follow the procedures described in the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group Code of Practice and this can be found at

<https://www.pwtag.org/code-of-practice/>

When duty holders are preparing for putting the building back in to use, advice should be sought from competent service providers and this can be done remotely before the restrictions are lifted.

When buildings are allowed to re-open following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, it is essential that any water system is not put straight back in to use.

As the duty holder, you should be prepared for hazards to be present in the water system and you must consider reasonable control measures such as limiting exposure, limiting aerosols and the use of the correct respiratory protective equipment.

Find further guidance which is free of charge on the HSE's web page:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l8.htm>