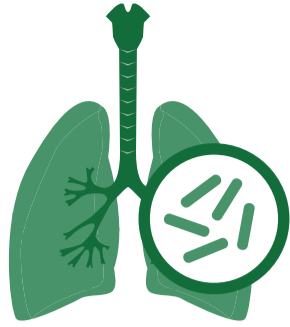


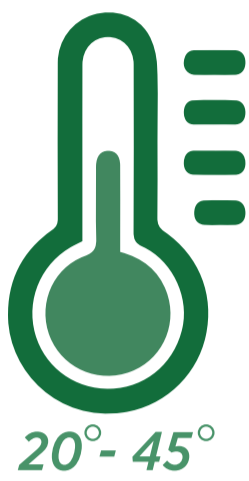
# LEGIONELLA: THE FACTS

● What you need to know to protect your building from a *legionella* outbreak ●



- *Legionella* is an ever-present bacterium found in water
- It is the cause of Legionnaire's disease - a lung infection acquired by inhaling contaminated aerosol or water droplets suspended in the air

In Australia there were **387** cases of Legionnaires disease in 2017, with outbreaks in New South Wales and Victoria



- *Legionella* are commonly found in wet and damp environments
- In the right conditions the bacteria can multiply rapidly
- The danger zone for an increase in *Legionella* numbers is in water temperatures between 20-45 degrees



Healthcare



Hotel



Office



Retail



School

The main areas of risk for building owners - in healthcare, hotel, office, retail, or education - are:

## AIR CONDITIONING COOLING TOWERS

NSW Health recently aligned regulations with Victoria and highlighted "Six Safeguards" which form the basis of changes to public health regulations concerning cooling towers:

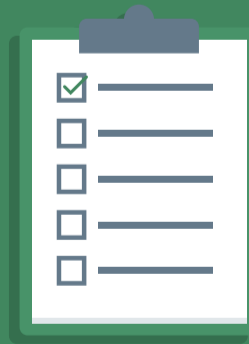


- 1 Risk Management Plans (RMPs) developed at least every five years (or once every year for high risk systems)
- 2 Independent auditing conducted every year
- 3 Certificate of RMP completion and audit completion lodged with local council
- 4 Laboratory testing for Legionella and heterotrophic colony count every month
- 5 Notification of elevated laboratory tests to local council
- 6 Unique identification number to be displayed on every cooling tower

## POTABLE WATER

Potable and heated water distribution systems, where tanks, shower heads, piping dead legs and lack of temperature control increase risk.

Health and aged care facilities require the most elaborate programmes to protect patients from infection, however, hotels and large commercial buildings may also have complex water systems requiring a water quality plan to be implemented.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Work with a qualified expert to develop a risk management plan. This will determine how the distribution and delivery system can be improved and maintained, including a programme of testing cold water and warm water systems on a regular basis to confirm that maintenance practices are effective.

Everyone can be at risk of catching an infection but the most susceptible are:



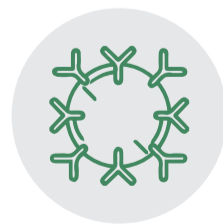
people over 50 years of age



smokers



people with chronic health conditions such as lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease



people with weakened immune systems



There is no vaccine currently available for the prevention of Legionnaires' disease.



The best solution is to create and follow a robust risk management plan.



Environmental Services

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