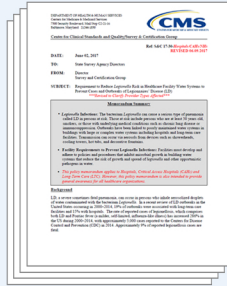


What You Need to Know About *Legionella* and Water Management Programs for Healthcare Facilities

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued requirements for healthcare facilities to reduce *Legionella* risk in water systems: ¹



Facility Requirements to Prevent *Legionella* Infections:

Facilities must develop and adhere to policies and procedures that inhibit microbial growth in building water systems that reduce the risk of growth and spread of *Legionella* and other opportunistic pathogens in water

42 CFR §483.80 for skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities:

"The facility must establish and maintain an infection prevention and control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections."

¹ "Requirement to Reduce *Legionella* Risk in Healthcare Facility Water Systems to Prevent Cases and Outbreaks of Legionnaires' Disease (LD)", (www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-17-30.pdf), Memorandum Issued June 2, 2017 and Revised July 6, 2018.

A Water Management Program is Necessary for the Safety of Everyone in Your Facility!

It provides the blueprint to limit the potential risk of your water systems, keeping your patients and employees safe!

According to the CDC, a Water Management Program involves: ²

- Identifying your Water Management Team
- A detailed description of your buildings' water systems
- Identifying areas where *Legionella* could grow and spread
- Detailing where control measures should be applied and how to monitor them
- An intervention plan for when measures are not met
- Document, document, document!

It does NOT mean:

- "We flush the domestic fixtures regularly."
- "We pull a few *Legionella* samples once a year."
- "We've never had a case, so we are good."

Why Do You Need a Water Management Program?

- It is required by CMS!
- It gives your facility an agreed upon action plan and steps to take should positive *Legionella* samples be found.
- If you have a suspected *legionellosis* case but don't have a water management program, local governing bodies, such as DEP and DOH, can implement their own remediation and testing steps that will cost tens of thousands of dollars.
- *Legionella* lawsuits are on rise and recent settlements are in the millions of dollars!

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² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Toolkit for Controlling *Legionella* in Common Sources of Exposure; (www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/control-toolkit/index.html)