



Association of London Environmental Health Managers

Businesses must manage their water supplies as they reopen to prevent Legionnaires' Disease.

As lockdown restrictions are starting to be eased following the COVID-19 lockdown it is essential for businesses to carry out essential checks to ensure their water supplies do not pose a risk to the public from Legionella.

Hot and cold water systems may have been unused for several weeks. This could allow water to stagnate producing conditions which allow legionella bacteria to increase to levels which can cause the life threatening Legionnaires' Disease. Businesses need to take simple steps to control the risk.

Businesses must make extra checks of their water supply systems before they reopen to ensure they operate safely. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health has published simple to follow, see [CIEH guidance on Legionella](#) for businesses reopening following the COVID-19 lockdown. The guidance sets out advice for businesses to take which will ensure their water supply is safe and ready for use when they open for business. The Health and Safety Executive has also produced advice, see link to [Legionella risk during corona virus outbreak](#).

The short lead-in periods following the lifting of lockdown controls will create pressure on business management to quickly return to normal operations, but businesses must ensure they take adequate steps before any water systems are put back into use.

Please contact your local council's environmental health team if you need any additional advice.