

Legionnaires Issues in Building Closed for Long Periods

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Additional Notes for NEC CV19 Team

Harmful Pathogens can live – grow in used water tanks, so it is imperative that the water system is made safer prior to re – occupation.

We do not need to drain down the system neither is it recommended to do so as it does not eliminate the risk.

But in all circumstances the flushing of water should be exercised with great caution, as there is potential for stagnant water aerosols containing the bacteria.

The person doing the flushing cleaning of taps should be aware of the following symptoms: -

- High Temperature
- Fever
- Cough
- Muscles Pains
- Headaches
- Diarrhoea
- Mental Confusion

The devices to be flushed: -

- Water Fountains (Must be professionally cleaned)
- Dishwasher
- Baptismal Pool fill run water for approx. 10m and disinfect pool
- Water filters in refrigerators (Change filters whilst flushing cleaning units).
- All taps remove aerators whilst - flushing (run taps 5 – 10 minutes).
- Humidifiers – A / C to be professionally cleaned.

When commissioning flushing of the taps start with a low velocity of flow when starting.

Start flushing as near to the incoming main as possible where the main enters the building. Flush Cold water taps first. Then start with the hot water taps until the temperature is reached at 60°C

Care must be taken here as at this temperature hot water will scald the operators

If possible, aim to ensure any water stored in tanks is to be turned over every 24 hours and movement of water through pipework and outlets at least once a week to prevent it from being stagnant.

Please consider if possible, re using the flushed water for outdoor watering where possible.

Note larger buildings will require several flushes as a single flush would not be enough to establish good quality water so planning ahead and include flushing as part of the cleaning and routine maintenance that will have to be completed before opening.

This also protects the health of any staff - persons or occupants working in the building.

I recommend a final flush in the 24 – 48 hours before the building/s is reopened.

Recommended PPE

- **The competent persons must wear Respirators disposable RPE – FFPS as used by Health or Care Workers.**
- **Eye – Face – Protection**
- **Hand Protection**
- **Foot Protection**

I would recommend Disposable overalls.

Clem Morgan