

# LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE PREVENTION

## Making a Splash with Safe Water



Legionnaires' disease is a serious type of pneumonia (lung infection) caused by *Legionella* bacteria. It can be associated with **hotels and resorts**, and may be **deadly and costly**. Prevention keeps guests and employees healthy — it makes good business sense, too!

### Guest and employee safety is the first priority

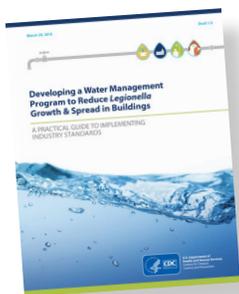
Legionnaires' disease is deadly for approximately 1 in 10 people who get it. Outbreaks at hotels and resorts may interrupt services, which can diminish the guest experience and lead to considerable financial and reputational costs. However, the problems that lead to Legionnaires' disease are preventable through water management programs.

### Guidance available: Start your water management program today

A water management program is a multi-step, continuous process designed to

- Identify areas in a building where *Legionella* could grow and spread
- Reduce risk by managing and monitoring the water system
- Trigger action when risks are identified

Get started by creating a team with the right mix of skills so you can develop the most effective program possible.



### Water management programs are now an industry standard for large buildings in the United States

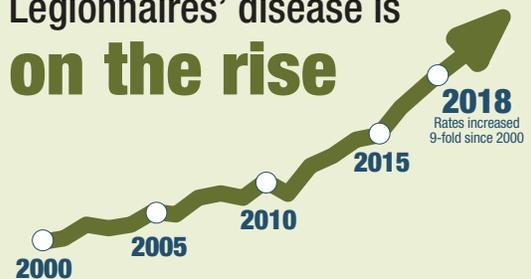
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a free toolkit with practical guidance on how to tailor a water management program for your building and needs.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

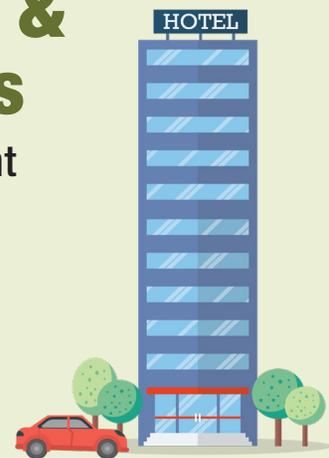
## FACTS

Legionnaires' disease is **on the rise**



## Hotels & resorts

are frequent settings for outbreaks



Water management programs

## can prevent problems

that lead to outbreaks



## *Legionella* can grow and spread in **many areas of hotels and resorts**

*Legionella* can make people sick when the bacteria grow in water and spread in droplets small enough for people to breathe in. *Legionella* grows best in warm water that is not moving or that does not have enough disinfectant to kill the bacteria.

### **Cooling Towers**

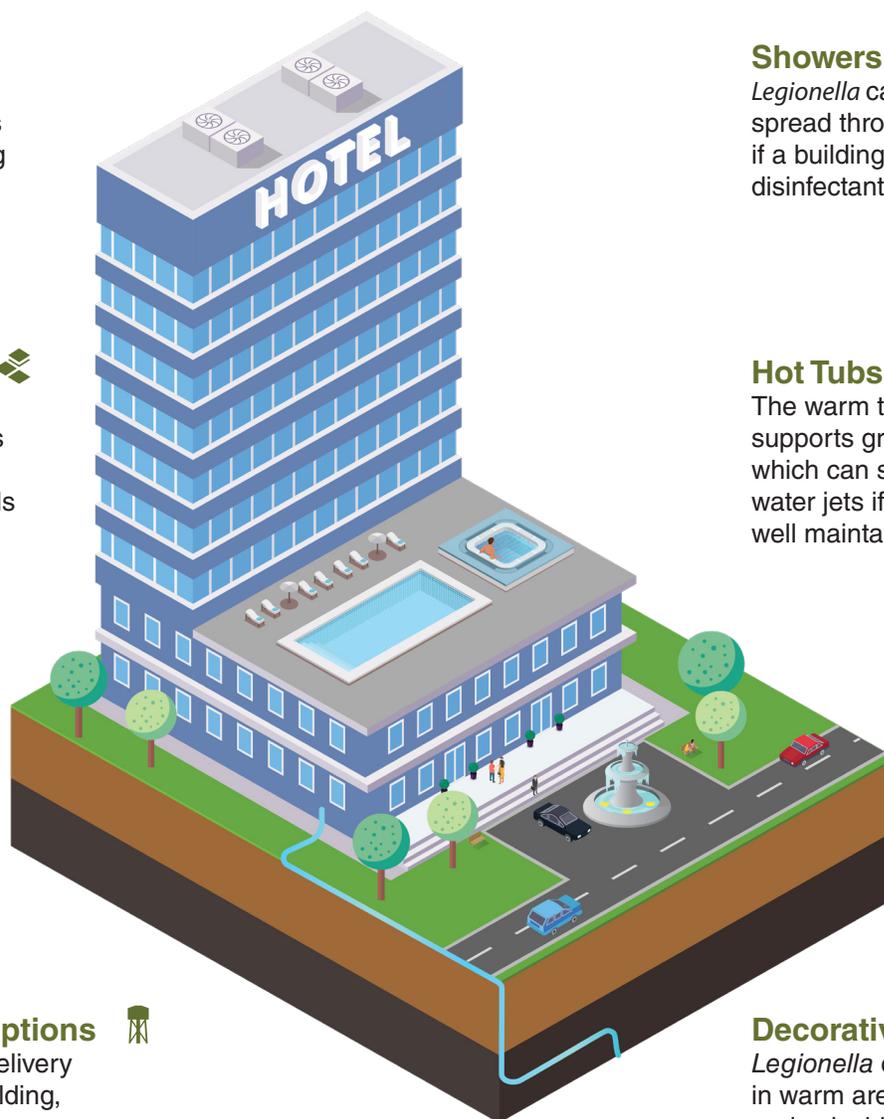
When disinfectant levels are low, cooling tower fans can spray water containing *Legionella*.

### **Unoccupied Floors or Rooms**

Low occupancy decreases water flow, which can decrease disinfectant levels and increase the risk of *Legionella* growth.

### **Water Supply Interruptions**

Events that interrupt the delivery of municipal water to a building, such as nearby construction, can allow dirt to enter the system and use up disinfectant.



### **Showers**

*Legionella* can grow in and spread through showerheads if a building's water has low disinfectant levels.

### **Hot Tubs**

The warm temperature supports growth of *Legionella*, which can spread through water jets if hot tubs are not well maintained.

### **Decorative Fountains**

*Legionella* can grow in warm areas of a fountain and splashing can spread water containing *Legionella*.

## Steps you can take

**1** Learn more about the problem

[www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/legionnaires/](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/legionnaires/)

**2** Learn more about prevention

[www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/index.html)

**3** Get assistance locally

<https://go.usa.gov/xmdTn>