

**Webinar: Managing Water Risk in the “New Normal” (9/16/21)
Question and Answer Summary Report**

Question	Answer
Was Legionnaire's Disease still being diagnosed by healthcare facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic?	Legionnaires' disease was still being diagnosed by healthcare facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 case surveillance data have not yet been finalized, but early indications suggest that there were fewer cases detected and reported in 2020 than preceding years. However, it is not clear if any decrease is the result of there being fewer cases, fewer persons seeking medical care, reduced testing specifically for infection with <i>Legionella</i> , or a combination of multiple factors. Answered Live @ 50:56
What were the top root causes that could have been prevented? Was it a management plan lacking prevention techniques or lack of follow-through of plans?	This link contains a plain language summary of the latest paper which gets to this question.
Can you give listeners advice about working with school systems and other local building owners who are working to establish a Water Management Program (WMP), but do not have funding for testing? Can you please address verification vs. validation of a WMP?	Answered Live @ 53:56
With the dramatic reduction in occupancy since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, what research or studies have been done to determine the ability of local municipalities to maintain sufficient disinfectant levels throughout their water distribution systems? Particularly considering the reduction of flow/usage in those systems.	This is an excellent question! Unfortunately, [CDC's team] cannot speak to this, but EPA and drinking water regulatory partners, as well as academic partners, can better speak to this question. EPA and others have released guidance to address this issue as well.
What type and amount of testing is required vs. what is recommended?	Please see the Routine Testing Module of the Legionella Control Toolkit for CDC recommendations regarding testing for <i>Legionella</i> , including considerations for frequency. Check with agencies having jurisdiction regarding any local or state requirements.
As the <i>Legionella</i> infective dose is currently not known (or based on other risk factors), to what extent are	There is no known safe level of <i>Legionella</i> . CDC is aware of instances in which cases have occurred in buildings in which <i>Legionella</i> was not detected in environmental

<p>guidelines based upon numerical <i>Legionella</i> concentration limits not accurate?</p>	<p>samples. However, the concentration of <i>Legionella</i> detected is an important performance indicator for <i>Legionella</i> control. Please see the Routine Testing Module of the Legionella Control Toolkit for CDC recommendations regarding testing for <i>Legionella</i>. The Routine Testing module includes a multifactorial approach to interpreting routine test results, which can be accessed directly here.</p>
<p>Why don't more buildings utilize point of use water treatment technologies? High costs, restricted flow rates, lack of education?</p>	<p>Answered Live @ 58:33</p>
<p>What is the recommended testing frequency of water systems for <i>Legionella</i>?</p>	<p>Please see the Routine Testing Module of the Legionella Control Toolkit for CDC recommendations regarding testing for <i>Legionella</i>, including considerations for frequency. Check with agencies having jurisdiction regarding any local or state requirements.</p>
<p>How to manage the amount (and time used) of biocide during tower cleaning to avoid the risk of corrosion occurring inside chillers or on other parts that might be susceptible to corrosion?</p>	<p>Answered Live @ 57:21</p>
<p>What was a good level of chlorine to maintain in a decorative water feature?</p>	<p>Although not prescriptive with respect to disinfectant residual target values, there is guidance specific to decorative fountains in the CDC Legionella Control Toolkit. Control limits will be informed by the WMP and performance as observed through WMP validation.</p>
<p>Should all HVAC equipment both internal or external with a condensate drip pan that collects and drains condensed water be treated with a biocide?</p>	<p>As one would expect, bacteria is very sticky and in the case of a drip pan, the bacteria can clog the drain line. A biocide, in this case, is addressing the actual operation of the drain. The biocide reduces the number of bacteria to keep the line clean, so it does not overflow.</p>
<p>Is there a difference between growth potential for private wells vs. municipal supply?</p>	<p><i>Legionella</i> is present in fresh natural water and is a concern for both surface and ground water sources. Please see the CDC Legionella Control Toolkit which discusses factors for <i>Legionella</i> growth which would not be specific to municipal distribution systems or wells.</p>
<p>Do our panelists have risk-based recommendations for piped water fountain dispensers vs. water/ice dispensing machines vs. water bottle vendors for drinking water in healthcare facilities?</p>	<p><i>Legionella</i> does not cause gastrointestinal illness, and according to the CDC's website, "people can get sick by aspiration of drinking water containing <i>Legionella</i>. This happens when water accidentally goes into the lungs while drinking. People at increased risk of aspiration include those with swallowing difficulties." Piped drinking fountains may be a higher risk than bottled water stations, given <i>Legionella</i> is likely present in drinking water at low levels from the city supply. Bottle fountains should be</p>

	maintained per manufacturers recommendations and are likely a very low risk as a source of <i>Legionella</i> .
One panelist mentioned carbon filters in ice machines. Do the panelists have recommendations for particle size filtration vs. carbon filtration for ice machines?	Carbon filters will remove the chlorine residual which can help suppress bacteria growth. Carbon filters are primarily used for removing of flavors and odors. Typical filters used are sediment filters for removing particulates in the water down to about 5-micron. If you want to remove bacteria, you will need sub-micron filtration down to about 1-micron. Consult your water filter supplier for guidance.
What is the recent science supporting or disproving UV treatment in water/ice machines?	UV-light is a great surface disinfectant. If the light can shine on the surface for a given time, it will kill bacteria. However, UV-light does not have any residual effects downstream of the light. Consult the manufacturer for the intended use and verify its effectiveness with microbial testing to confirm it works.