

What you need to know about...

# Your building water system and *Legionella*

## How to assess your building to protect guests and staff:

- Complete this short worksheet to see if your building is at high risk for *Legionella* growth: <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/wmp-risk.html>
- Learn the basics of a water management program: <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/overview.html>
- Reach out with questions or concerns: [Legionella.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Legionella.Health@tn.gov)



## What is *Legionella*?

*Legionella* are bacteria that can cause a serious lung infection called Legionnaires' disease. People can get sick when they inhale water droplets that contain the bacteria.



## How does *Legionella* affect building water?

*Legionella* bacteria grow naturally in the environment and in water. They can also grow in building water systems. Buildings with large water systems, like hotels, may be more likely to grow *Legionella*. If the bacteria are present, they can be spread through aerosols produced by: hot and cold water systems, showerheads, decorative fountains, hot tubs, cooling towers, and more.



## Why should you care?

*Legionella* may grow and spread in hotel water systems. Hotels often have a large number of visitors and numerous *Legionella* outbreaks have occurred at hotels. From 2016 to 2017, there were 134 illnesses related to two outbreaks at Tennessee hotels.



## What can you do to prevent *Legionella*?

You can protect your guests and staff by assessing your water system and learning about water management programs. Using a water management program can help identify hazards in your water system and prevent the growth and spread of *Legionella* bacteria.

