Legionella are bacteria that can cause a serious lung infection called Legionnaires’ disease. Legionella bacteria grow naturally in water and especially in warm water. Hot tubs that are not cleaned and disinfected properly can become contaminated with Legionella. People can get infected with Legionella if they inhale steam or mist from a contaminated hot tub.

Make sure your hot tub is maintained and properly disinfected

To prevent the growth and spread of bacteria like Legionella in your hot tub, perform these activities regularly:

☐ Check disinfectant and pH levels
   To learn more about recommended test kits and proper disinfection, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/disinfection-testing.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/disinfection-testing.html)
   Remember to check levels more often when the hot tub is being used by a lot of people

☐ Remove slime or biofilm by scrubbing and cleaning

☐ Replace the hot tub water filter according to manufacturer’s recommendations

☐ Replace the hot tub water

The number of people with Legionnaire’s disease in Tennessee and in the United States has increased since 2000. In 2017, over **200 people in Tennessee** were diagnosed with Legionnaire’s disease and **6% used a hot tub** during the time they could have become infected.

To learn more about care of your hot tub, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/residential/index.html)

To learn more about Legionella, visit [https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html)

Please contact the Tennessee Department of Health with questions or concerns: Legionella.Health@tn.gov

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