

Legionella: A Guide for



What are The Risks?

As your landlord, we need to ensure you are aware of the possible causes and symptoms of Legionella bacteria so you can prevent any problems occurring and report concerns to us.

What is Legionella?

Legionella is a type of bacteria naturally found in water. When small droplets of water from contaminated water sources containing legionella are inhaled it can cause respiratory illnesses such Legionnaires disease.

Where is Legionella Found?

Large and complex water system are more at risk, but all hot and cold water systems are a potential source for legionella bacteria growth. The main areas of risk are where the bacteria can multiply e.g. in spray from showers and taps, even in pipes.

Am I at risk?

There is no need to worry, Legionella is very rare in domestic properties and is easily preventable by putting in place some simple control measures, which we've included in this leaflet.

In line with legal obligations, CHS employ a water hygiene company to regularly monitor and inspect some of its buildings to make sure water systems are clean and the water is safe to use.

We do not monitor water hygiene within your home, so please follow the advice in this leaflet. **Further information about Legionella risks can be viewed online at: www.hse.gov.uk.**

What precautions can I take



Flush through showers and hot and cold taps for 5 minutes following a period of non-use (i.e. when you move in, after a long hospital stay, after you have been on holiday or if a room is not in regular use).



If you aren't using showers or taps regularly, make sure you flush them through at least once a week



From a safe distance, turn taps on slowly so that you don't splash water, as this might release water droplets into the air.



When flushing showers, remove the shower head and lower the hose into the bath. If you're unable to remove the head, wrap it with a cloth to make sure there is no spray that you could inhale.



Keep all shower heads and taps clean and free from a build-up of lime scale, mould, or algae growth (regular cleaning every 3 months will help sterilise and kill any bacteria).



Do not adjust the hot water on your boiler system.



Report any deposits such as rust or any unusual matter flowing from your water outlets to CHS on 0300 1113555 or online at www.chsgroup.org.uk.