

Issue Date: 13th February 2018

The Current Situation

As part of our commitment to your safety on site, Schools Plus engages closely with responsible authorities at all the schools where we work to ensure that all necessary checks and controls are carried out on the premises to ensure that the buildings are suitable for use. These checks take place on an ongoing basis throughout the year, and cover matters such as the fire systems and the water supply.

In the course of these routine investigations, our client has informed us that the presence of the bacterium that can cause Legionnaires' disease in the water supply appears to have exceeded the minimum safety threshold.

As a precautionary measure, therefore, we are suspending public use of the site until further investigations are carried out. If necessary, we will also wait for the appropriate treatments to be applied to the water supply.

Please be reassured that there have been no reports of any one suffering from the illness.

We apologise for the inconvenience this will cause you, and assure you that every effort is being made to rectify the situation as quickly as possible.

About Legionnaires' Disease

Legionnaires' disease is a lung infection you can catch by inhaling droplets of water from things like air conditioning or hot tubs. It's uncommon but can be very serious.

It is caused by the bacterium *Legionella pneumophila*. These are entirely natural and are common in natural water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs, but usually in low numbers. In its natural environment it is not regarded as a health risk.

How you get Legionnaires' disease

You can catch Legionnaires' disease if you breathe in tiny droplets of water containing bacteria that cause the infection.

It's usually caught in places like hotels, hospitals or offices where the bacteria have got into the water supply. It's very rare to catch it at home.

You can catch it from things like:

- air conditioning systems
- spa pools and hot tubs
- showers, taps and toilets

You can't usually get it from:

- drinking water containing the bacteria
- other people with the infection
- places like ponds, lakes and rivers

Get an urgent GP appointment if

- you have a bad cough and it doesn't go away
- you can't breathe properly
- you have severe chest pain
- you have a high temperature or you feel hot and shivery
- you feel like you have severe flu

These could be symptoms of Legionnaires' disease.

Tell your GP where you've been in the past 10 days, such as if you stayed in a hotel, spa or hospital. Also advise them that we have identified the presence of Legionella at this site and that the water systems are currently being cleared..

Treatment for Legionnaires' disease

You may need to go into hospital if you're diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease.

Treatment in hospital may include:

- antibiotics directly into a vein
- oxygen through a face mask or tubes in your nose
- a machine to help you breathe

When you start to get better you might be able to take antibiotic tablets at home. Antibiotic treatment usually lasts 1 to 3 weeks.

Most people make a full recovery, but it might take a few weeks to feel back to normal.

Where To Get More Information

We will keep you fully posted, and will advise you as soon as possible when it will be appropriate for you to return to use the facilities.

If you have any health concerns, please contact your GP.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/legionnaires-disease/> also provides useful information.