



[VIEW: Advice for LCA Members for Legionella Control During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)



Legionella  
Control  
Association  
KEEPING WATER SYSTEMS SAFE

SMS ENVIRONMENTAL HEAD OFFICE

QUAD ONE  
BECQUEREL AVENUE  
HARWELL CAMPUS, DIDCOT OX11 0RA  
TEL: 0800 138 21 21

“ Where a building, part of a building or a water system is taken out of use, it should be managed so that microbial growth, including legionella in the water, is appropriately controlled.

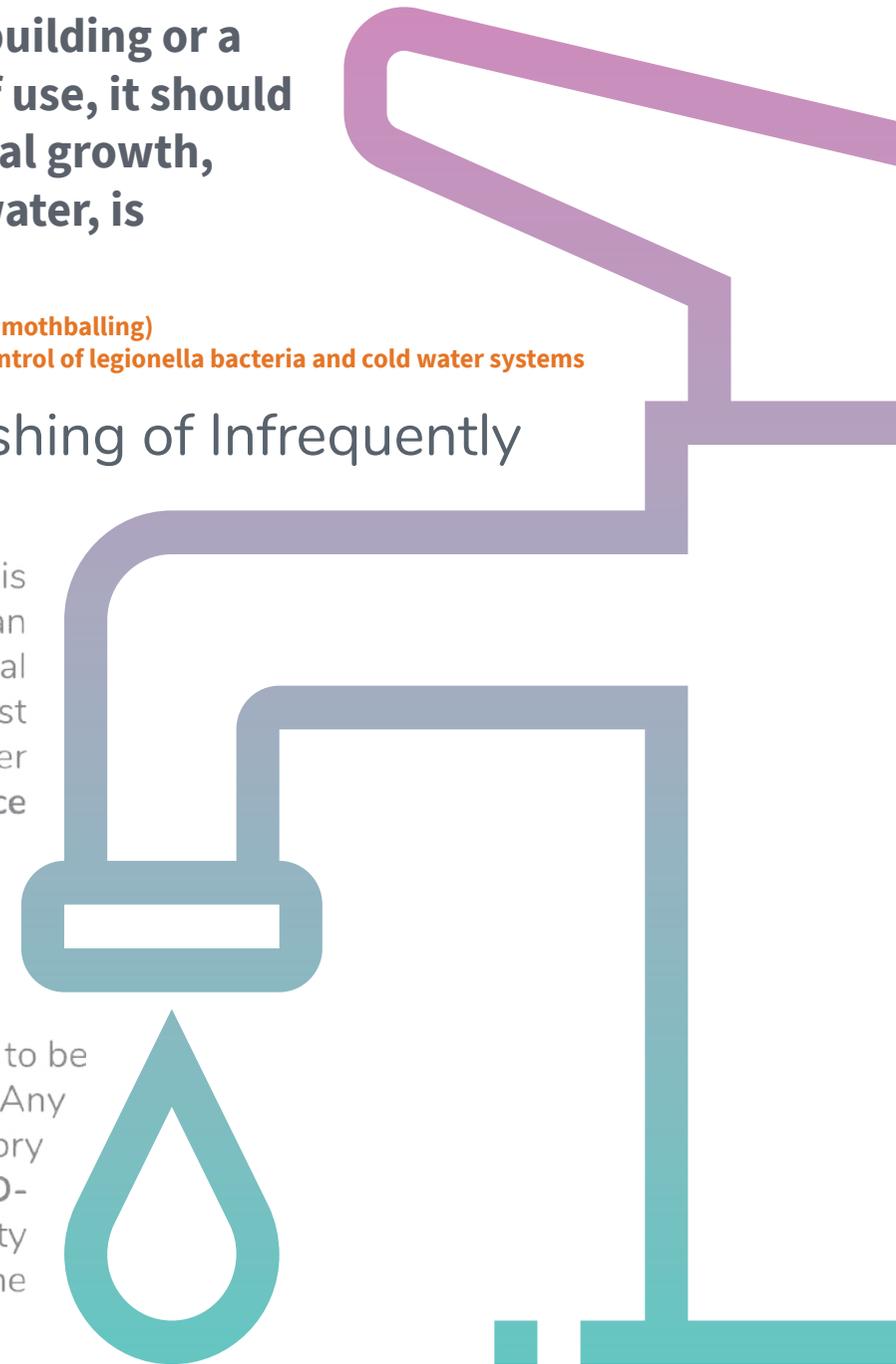
**Pg24. 2.5 - Buildings temporarily taken out of use (mothballing)**  
**HSE - HSG274 Legionnaires' disease Part 2: The control of legionella bacteria and cold water systems**

## Why Continue the Flushing of Infrequently Used Outlets?

We have been asked to provide this document by clients so they can share with colleagues, the potential impact of halting all services whilst the building is out of use by the wider public, in particular the importance of flushing the system whilst unused.

### **\*COVID-19 is prevalent in comorbidity**

Now, more than ever, it's important to be mindful about Legionella control. Any illness that affects the respiratory system, if combined with **COVID-19\***, will likely have a high mortality rate and **Legionnaires disease** in one such illness.



SMS Environmental continues to deliver critical building services to its customers during this period of reduced use.

We have provide the following information with reference to the relevant parts of ACoP L8 and British Standards guidance regarding flushing:

- You have to ensure a control method for managing the risk of legionella in your water system and in most instances **flushing is an important and simple control method.**
- If you move away from flushing then a suitable alternative needs to be considered
  - Draining and decommissioning the system may be an option in some cases
  - In many cases you are unable to drain the system because other parts of the system still need to be operational
- Leaving water to stagnate without flushing will encourage the bacteria to proliferate.
  - When bacteria is left to proliferate it can form a biofilm on all surfaces
  - Once a biofilm is established it is very difficult to remove
  - This will inevitably result in additional disinfection works, sampling, remedial and possibly dosing equipment installed. These ongoing costs are likely to be significantly more than the cost of flushing.
- During the period these areas are stagnant increased levels of bacteria entering the other parts of the water system will not be prevented.
  - This will present a risk to any remaining residents or users on return to the building.
  - Although concerned with reducing the risk of COVID-19 this will potentially combine the possibility of legionnaires disease to the residents
    - This is true due to the fact that COVID-19 is prevalent in comorbidity.

## Reference

- Legionella is a respiratory illness (pneumonia) and if co occurring with influenza will lead to an outcome as detailed in this quote from a report in the lancet following investigations from the original outbreak in Wuhan - [the presence and number of comorbidities is associated with poorer clinical outcome in patients with COVID-19](#)
- For further information on this please follow this link to a google search for Comorbidity and COVID-19 - [comorbidity coronavirus COVID-19](#)
- HSE - [HSG274 Legionnaires' disease Part 2: The control of legionella bacteria and cold water systems](#)
- BS8558: Page 68, [Guide to the design, installation, testing and maintenance of services supplying water for domestic use within buildings and their curtilages. Complementary guidance to BS EN 806](#)
- Legionella Control Association : [Advice for LCA Members for Legionella Control During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

## Offer to Support

SMS Environmental have agreed to support our customers further by offering **additional outlet flushing services during this period of mothballing/reduced use at cost to SMS oppose to standard contracted rates.**

Please contact your account manager to discuss your requirements further.



### Safe Workforce Procedures

For your assurance our workforce have been briefed on further precautions, had reiterated the importance of safe operation within your premises, and will follow an update to our procedures. On request we will make available a copy of our **RAMS137 - Access to sites during COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**



**BE SAFE WITH SMS ENVIRONMENTAL**

**CONTACT US**

**ENQUIRIES@SMS-ENVIRONMENTAL.CO.UK**

**HEAD OFFICE, SOUTH & S.E - 01235 835 835**

**SCOTLAND - 01698 907 770**

**WALES & S.W - 0292 105 1110**

**CENTRAL & NORTH - 01332 588 114**