

Our Ref: WK/000713123

Date: 22 March 2021

Address  
Street  
City  
Postcode

Dear

## POST LOCKDOWN LEGIONELLA RISK

To support local businesses and obtain assurance that Legionella risks associated with underused water systems have been assessed and managed during the COVID-19 lockdown period we are making contact with at risk businesses. If your building was closed or has had reduced occupancy during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, water system stagnation can occur due to lack of use, increasing the risks of Legionnaires' disease.

Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia which can cause serious respiratory illness. It can occur when tiny droplets of water (aerosol) containing Legionella bacteria are breathed into the lungs of susceptible people. Preventing Legionnaires' disease is typically achieved by limiting the growth of Legionella in building water systems.

Employers, the self-employed and people in control of premises, such as landlords, have a duty to protect people by identifying and controlling risks associated with legionella.

Your premises have been identified because of 2 risk factors which may have increased within your premises creating ideal conditions for *Legionella* bacteria to grow in your water system. These are temperature and time for stagnation to occur. The formation of aerosols is also likely due to the presence of showers and other water outlets. To ensure your premises are safe, water systems need to be clean and maintained at safe temperatures to control the growth of Legionella. The general principles are to keep hot water hot (50-60°C) cold water cold (less than 25°C) and to ensure water does not stagnate.

Enclosed is a questionnaire to help you consider the risks associated with legionella post lockdown. Providing a response will help us to understand your controls and avoid the need to contact you further about this matter.

Should you wish to discuss this matter please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

**Environmental Health Officer**