LEGIONELLA - QUICK FACTS

Get to understand Legionella

- Legionella is a naturally occurring bacteria in rivers, lakes and streams (generally at low levels)
- Certain conditions may be present in homes and buildings that promote its growth
  - Stagnant water, warm water temperatures and cleanliness of piping and equipment
- These conditions may be present in a variety of building systems and equipment, such as:
  - Cooling towers*, ornamental water features, humidifiers, plumbing systems, hot tubs.
- Legionella can cause Legionnaires' disease, a form of respiratory infection. You may worry when you hear that Legionella bacteria may be present in your building's mechanical systems.
- Since Legionella is naturally occurring, the bacteria can never be completely eliminated. Its growth can only be controlled.

Get to know how PSPC controls Legionella

- Your health and safety is PSPC's top priority. With the help of stakeholders and unions, PSPC developed a strict Legionella control standard and communications protocol.

MD 15161: Control of Legionella in Mechanical Systems

Legionella Management Communications and Actions Protocol

PSPC has a rigorous program to control the growth of Legionella in its building water systems.

Here's how we do it:

5 STEPS

1 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF NEW SYSTEMS

Building systems are designed and installed to minimize risks associated with Legionella growth and transmission.

2 LEGIONELLA BACTERIA CONTROL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (FOR EACH BUILDING)

This program identifies Legionella susceptible systems and their risks and hazards. This program ensures appropriate control and validation strategies are implemented.

3 MAINTENANCE AND PREVENTION

PSPC technicians control Legionella growth by maintaining cleanliness and appropriate water temperatures, while minimizing stagnant water conditions and ensuring appropriate water treatment.

4 TESTING AND VALIDATION

PSPC does regular bacterial testing. The test results indicate if cleaning and disinfection are required to control bacterial growth.

5 CLEANING, DISINFECTION AND RETESTING

If required, cleaning and disinfection of a system is performed immediately. The system is then retested to ensure the cleaning and disinfection was effective.

*Cooling towers are heat exchanger systems that discharge building heat to the outdoors. They are not connected to the building's ventilation air.

For more information about Legionella, visit pwgsc.gc.ca/biens-property/legionella-bacteria-eng.html

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