

What is Legionella? Staff guide

Plain-English Legionella basics for everyone on site: what it is, how we control it, what to report.

What it is

- Bacteria that grow in warm, still water
- Breathed in as a fine spray from showers, taps and sprays
- Can cause Legionnaires' — a serious lung infection
- Not spread person to person

How we keep it controlled here

- ✓ Keep hot water hot and cold water cold
- ✓ Keep water moving — don't let outlets sit unused
- ✓ Flush little-used taps and showers
- ✓ Keep shower heads and spray taps clean

Spot the warning signs

- ▲ A cold tap that runs warm
- ▲ Hot water that never gets properly hot
- ▲ Scale or slime on a shower head
- ▲ A room or wing left out of use

See something? Say something

- Report it to your Responsible Person
- Don't wait for the next inspection
- Health worries: call NHS 111 or a GP