Dear Sir/Madam

**KEEPING YOUR SPORTS FALCILITY SAFE – PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING THE RISK OF LEGIONELLA WHEN RE-OPENING YOUR SPORTS FALCILITY.**

We know this is a very difficult time for businesses. As the UK Government publishes its COVID-19 Recovery Strategy we are all looking for advice and guidance. We will be supporting Wiltshire businesses with this as best we can, so please keep an eye on the Wiltshire Council website for all the latest updates.

This mailing is important so please read on. It is essential that that while many buildings, retail premises, offices and leisure facilities remain shut down due to the pandemic, that water systems within them are still well maintained to prevent future health issues like Legionella outbreaks. People who are recovering from Covid-19 are particularly susceptible to Legionnaires Disease. This could be members of your staff.

So, we are providing you with advice on how to ensure that your water systems are safe, particularly where they have not been in use for weeks or months. If any water system has been shut down for a long time and has not been maintained there is an increased risk of growth of Legionella bacteria. Legionella can cause serious illness at the best of times, but if contracted by those who have had or are susceptible to COVID-19. it can prove deadly.

**So, what must you do?**

* **Please take time now to read and follow the advice below. It explains the simple steps you can take to make sure your water system is safe.**
* A competent person (this could be a staff member or a competent contractor) should assess the risk based on the specific hot and cold water systems relevant to your business and the likely impact caused by the shutdown. They must review and take the necessary actions to prevent the build-up of Legionella whilst outlets are not in regular use. **The advice note enclosed will guide you on the steps you need to take.** The Covid-19 guidance allows people to access their buildings, to carry out essential maintenance, during lockdown.
* If you have five or more employees you must record any significant findings, including those employees identified as being particularly at risk and the steps taken to prevent or control risks.  If you have less than five employees, you do not need to write anything down, although it is useful to keep a written record of what you have done
* This guidance is particularly important for businesses that have high risk water hot and cold water systems including (but not limited to):
* if water is stored or re-circulated as part of your system;
* where there are dead-legs in the system (lengths of pipes that are abandoned due to alterations/extensions of the building, redundant, or infrequently used water outlets);
* where the water temperature in all or some parts of the system may be between 20 ºC and 45 ºC;
* where there are deposits that can support bacterial growth, such as rust, sludge, scale and organic matter;
* if it is possible for water droplets (aerosols) to be produced, and if so, if they can be dispersed (e.g. by showers, flushed toilets, sinks, water fountains, humidifiers, hosepipes);
* if it is likely that employees, contractors, visitors, etc., could be exposed to water droplets
* where the water system is large and/or complex
* If you have a swimming pool, a spa pool, or a complex water system with multiple outlets, you may need to contact a legionella specialist for advice.

The procedures you follow now will have an impact on how soon you can open your facilities without causing harm to health. It is therefore important to look at your risk assessment and systems without delay.

If you have any queries about this guidance – please contact the Food & Safety Team at [publicprotectionwest@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:publicprotectionwest@wiltshire.gov.uk) or on 01225 770411 and one of our officers will be in touch.

Alternatively, please visit All guidance can be accessed  [http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/env-health-safety-advice](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wiltshire.gov.uk%2Fenv-health-safety-advice&data=02%7C01%7CMatthew.Pearson%40wiltshire.gov.uk%7C094349feb0ac4567cbd008d7fcc18c10%7C5546e75e3be14813b0ff26651ea2fe19%7C0%7C0%7C637255780523792441&sdata=YbeZiSJy3ZjBzg5n5dH%2FHkKCMNJCoxiXdKlA%2B604YDg%3D&reserved=0) for further information.