

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Top tips: Legionnaires advice

Legionnaires is a severe form of pneumonia caused by the Legionella bacteria which grows in warm, stagnant water. Although Legionnaires is quite rare in the UK, bacteria can be harboured in taps, showers, water butts, etc., that are not used often.

Legionella is only a health risk when the water becomes aerosolised (a fine mist) and the droplets are inhaled.

A proper water management and hygiene system is necessary to mitigate the risks and ensure the safety of children and adults in your setting.

Here are some guidelines and advice:

1. Implement a water management plan. Include regular monitoring, maintenance and cleaning of all water systems in your setting
2. Keep records of the maintenance system. Assign roles, record findings of risk assessment, details of whether the water outlet is in use or not, date of assessment
3. Temperature control: The Legionella bacteria thrive in warm water that's between 20°C – 45°C so a temperature below 20°C is ideal for water that children use. If you have a water butt, it's best kept in the shade or use a reflective cover around the butt to reduce the heat
4. Regular cleaning: Routinely clean all water related equipment, such as taps, showers, hose pipes and any water storage items by running the water regularly. Use safe, eco-friendly products to clean water butts. If your setting usually closes for holidays, ensure that all water outlets are cleaned prior to the setting re-opening
5. Ensure good ventilation: Maintain proper ventilation in the nursery to prevent the accumulation of moisture and humidity, minimising the risk of Legionella growth
6. Educate staff in your setting about Legionnaires disease, its causes, symptoms, and prevention measures. Provide training on your water management system, hygiene practices and encourage any concerns to be reported promptly
7. Legionnaires is a notifiable disease in the UK. If any cases of Legionnaires disease are suspected or confirmed at your setting, notify the local health authority and follow any advice provided



For further information visit the [Gov.uk website for Legionnaires guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/legionnaires-disease).

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- [Health and safety checks factsheet](#)
- [Health and safety handbook](#).

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna