

Earlscliffe (Sussex Summer Schools Ltd)

LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE

What is Legionnaires' disease?

Legionnaires' disease is a bacterial disease, which may cause pneumonia. The majority of cases are reported as single (isolated) cases but outbreaks can occur. In England and Wales 150-250 cases are reported each year.

Where are legionellae organisms found?

Legionellae are widely distributed in the environment. They have been found in ponds, hot and cold water systems, and water in air conditioning cooling towers. The disease is spread through the air from a water source.

Responsibility of the School

Under general Health and Safety law the school recognises its duty of care to ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are in a safe environment with adequate precautions and suitable actions taken in areas of greatest risk.

Action Required

To meet compliance with the Health and Safety law it is essential to identify and assess sources of risk, prepare a scheme (or course of action) for preventing or controlling the risk and implement and manage the scheme – appointing a person to be managerially responsible.

Independent Checks and Surveys

Every 3 years the school should instruct independent consultants to check the water systems in the school for Legionellae. This should include where necessary.

A survey of the water system prioritizing areas of risk.

Cleaning and disinfecting the water system and tanks.

An action plan to improve water tanks in the school