

Factsheet 6 Legionella Risk Management for Golf Clubs



We consider golf clubs to be in a category of their own for Legionella control warranting a dedicated factsheet separate from our Sports and Leisure sheet as it is really both. Also, importantly, it is more likely that many people who play golf could fall into the most susceptible categories.

The risk of contagion grows over a certain age, from 40 to 50 onwards people are more susceptible and 3 times more men than women catch the disease. Smokers and heavy drinkers, people with respiratory problems, degenerative lung ailments and diabetics are more at risk. We don't tend to associate an outdoor activity involving exercise and fresh air with catching a fatal disease, but don't fool yourself! One golf resort recently had one death and several cases of the disease being fined £120,000 and was closed down for a period with much negative media coverage.

Most golf clubs have showers in the locker room – one of the greatest hazards there is for contracting Legionnaires' disease. Showers are not regularly used after a round of golf and require special cleaning and flushing regimes. When they are used aerosol is created, the steam is actually billions of tiny droplets of water that we breathe into our lungs. You don't have to take a shower to breathe in the bacteria. If the systems are clean and well maintained to prevent Legionella growth this isn't a problem. However, the bacteria are omnipresent in almost all manmade water systems despite utility company treatment of mains water. It isn't just showers where risks arise.

THE LAW: Under Health and Safety at Work Regulations it is incumbent upon the building's owners to ensure that a Risk Assessment is undertaken, that identified risks are removed or mitigated to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) and that monitoring and maintenance of the systems (often more than one) is carried out routinely, robustly and logged as being done. It is common now for courts to issue fines into 6 and 7 figures where Legionnaires' cases occur, and even where there is no bacterium in the system, if it is not being managed properly. Legionella outbreaks are not only devastating for the people concerned, they can be catastrophic for businesses.

LEGIONELLOSIS: *Legionella pneumophila*, the most serious strain, "has a mortality rate between 10-12%. Those who do survive are likely to be very unwell. It is a highly debilitating disease, often leaving people deaf or blind, or with lost limbs because over the course of the illness they have gone into coma or they have suffered brain damage and it has affected their entire systems. Recovery can take 12 – 18 months. Often people do not ever recover fully due to complications" (Green, 2013).

PEACE OF MIND: An Aqua Legionella Risk Assessment will identify and assess the source of any risk, take samples for laboratory analysis and provide you with a complete 'toolkit' to prevent and/or control that risk. We help you to implement and manage the control programme and provide you with the means to keep records. More than that though, we are always here to offer guidance and answer questions - our support doesn't stop when we provide you with your bespoke report - which consists of...



1. Detailed Risk Assessment including schematics required by law
2. Management Summary Report - what you need to do in plain language
3. A Logbook based on your system
4. All of this in electronic format, plus legislation and guidance on a disc
5. A framed Certificate of Compliance **and peace of mind!**



Aqua Engineering Solutions Ltd
Unit 1 Whitefield Place, Morecambe, Lancashire, LA3 3EA
(01524) 66512 | www.aquaengineering.co.uk
KEEPING YOUR WATER SUPPLY SAFE AND LEGAL

**Institute
of Water**