

## 7575 Metropolitan Drive San Diego Questions & Answers

- 1. Question:** What did the Department of General Services (DGS) do to prevent buildings from getting Legionella in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Answer:** In 2020 and throughout the beginning of the pandemic, the Facilities Management Division (FMD) maintained/cleaned/sterilized building water fountain and water access areas in accordance with strict cleaning standards, and maintained water machinery (coolers/chillers, etc.) in accordance with industry maintenance standards. We also began purposely flushing water pipes/systems to reduce instances of stagnant water lines.
- 2. Question:** Why did DGS start testing the building for Legionella?

**Answer:** As a preventive measure, in 2022, FMD began testing sample sites of DGS' building portfolio throughout the state.
- 3. Question:** Did DGS take any measures before the reported case?

**Answer:** FMD partnered with Millennium Environment Consulting Associates (the testing contractor) to fully educate the FMD team on all possible Legionella strands and potential health impacts, remediation strategies, etc. FMD began the initial remediation process (water flushing, stringent cleaning at known sites, closing off the few known high-level contaminated areas until flushing and cleaning occurred). FMD then coordinated tests for DGS' entire building portfolio out of an abundance of caution in late 2022. Further, FMD initiated the contract process to establish chemical remediation plans, to hire a water management consultant, and to create a statewide water management plan while also significantly bolstering our in-house health and safety team of industrial hygienists. If a tested area was found to have a level of detection, that area was closed off, flushed, and then retested.
- 4. Question:** Why did DGS close 7575 Metropolitan Drive in San Diego?

**Answer:** On Monday, April 10, 2023, DGS received a report of an individual associated with the building having a possible case of Legionnaires' disease. Out of an abundance of caution, DGS closed the state building while we worked to confirm details with state and local public health officials.

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5. **Question:** When will the building reopen?

**Answer:** The building reopened on Monday, April 24, 2023.

6. **Question:** Are employees allowed to access the building to grab documents, materials, etc.?

**Answer:** It is not recommended to send staff in while subject matter experts are actively flushing lines, installing filters and introducing remediation chemicals. *Note:* The building reopened Monday, April 24, 2023. DGS remained in constant communication with our tenants to ensure a smooth transition during this time.

7. **Question:** What is DGS doing in response to the reported case?

**Answer:** DGS began adding filters to all faucets in the building, which will keep the bacteria from potentially spreading if present. Additionally, DGS' contracted environmental consultant flushed all pipes in the building with a chemical treatment and will be replacing faucet aerators on restroom and kitchen faucets.

8. **Question:** Will DGS be holding a virtual stand-up meeting/call at some point to communicate more information out?

**Answer:** Yes. On Tuesday, May 9, we will hold an open "town hall" meeting for staff and tenants to ask questions, with representatives from the California Department of Public Health, attending local public health agency experts and our team of industry contractors. In addition, we do not have (and do not anticipate receiving) information regarding the person who was reported to have contracted Legionnaires' disease.

9. **Question:** Do we have any sense of how the person infected who works in the building became infected and where?

**Answer:** We have been unable to get confirmation of an infection from either local or state public health authorities. Even if the infection was confirmed, we would not know *how or where* the person became infected.

10. **Question:** Were the samples taken from the water system in the building or some other source?

**Answer:** In early February, as a precaution, DGS took samples from the building's water system, which comes from the city's water

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supply.

**11. Question:** What filters were installed in the building - did the building system get an upgrade after the COVID crisis?

**Answer:** The HVAC system uses the recommended MERV 13 filter, which is changed quarterly. HVAC unit #5 was recently replaced on March 16, 2023, as part of routine maintenance and repairs.

**12. Question:** Does the air conditioning system use water?

**Answer:** No, it only uses refrigerant.

**13. Question:** Is the air conditioning system modern?

**Answer:** Yes, it is modern.

**14. Question:** How should a suspected diagnosis of Legionnaires' be shared?

**Answer:** If a person believes they have the disease and/or has similar symptoms, the person should provide their health care provider with the available information regarding the building so that the provider can evaluate their condition and determine whether testing for the disease is appropriate. If the disease is found, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) should be contacted. CDPH would then notify the county health department for purposes of its investigations.

**15. Question:** Who do we contact if we still have questions?

**Answer:** Please continue to contact DGS Chief Deputy Director Jennifer Osborn, who will filter questions to the appropriate subject matter experts.

**16. Question:** Anything related to the person who was reported to have contracted the disease?

**Answer:** DGS was not provided and is not privy to any information related to the person who was reported to have contracted the disease.

**17. Question:** Why didn't DGS test every fixture and water outlet to begin with?

**Answer:** DGS and its environmental consultant relied on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, which states

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that it is not necessary to test every fixture/water outlet in order to assess a building's risk for Legionella bacteria. CDC's recommendations for choosing sampling locations in potable water, specifically showers and faucets, is to choose fixtures that are most proximal and most distal to risers or hot water heaters, ideally sampling at least a couple of outlets on every floor or wing. Sampling in this manner should provide a representative sample of the building's water system. A water management plan (WMP) would then be used to maintain the water system and provide for routine testing to monitor the effectiveness of the WMP.

**18. Question:** What was the remediation process that occurred in March?

Context: According to an email received today, "on April 17, 2023, the four locations where trace amounts of legionella were previously found during initial sampling in February were retested, and on April 18, 2023, filters were placed on two of the faucets in those areas and tests were performed again. These locations had already undergone remediation in March as recommended by their environmental consultant."

**Answer:** We maintained/cleaned/sterilized building areas in accordance with strict cleaning standards; and maintained water machinery (coolers/chillers, etc.) in accordance with industry maintenance standards. We also began purposely flushing water pipes/systems to reduce instances of stagnant water lines.

**19. Question:** I'd like to know what was the cfu/liter of Legionella detected in the water back in February? Did the tests done on 04/17/23 show again the presence of Legionella, and if so how much in cfu/l?

**Answer:** In February 2023, DGS' environmental consultant sampled 12 areas of the San Diego building. When we received the results in March 2023, they ranged from "no detection" to 14 cfu/mL. The consultant recommended shutting down the areas sampled that had a result of 5.0 cfu/mL or greater, and we began remediation on those areas. The consultant did not recommend closing the entire building. The remediation included stringent cleaning and nonchemical flushing of the areas.

When we were notified on April 10, 2023, that an individual associated with the building had a possible case of Legionnaires'

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disease, we immediately closed the building out of an abundance of caution. We then brought our consultant back to the building and sampled 25 areas. The results from those areas ranged between "no detection" and 250 cfu/mL, and there was one outlier of 11,300 cfu/mL. We then immediately began the consultant-recommended remediation, including chemical flushing of the system, which included chlorine dioxide. In addition, we placed medical-grade filters at all faucets in the building and replaced all aerators. DGS also completely replaced the faucet where the outlier sample result occurred. . We are awaiting the results of DIR's testing, as well as DGS's retesting conducted on May 2, 2023, to confirm the efficacy of the chemical flushing.

20. **Question:** Why was no one notified of the Legionella findings in February if you wanted to ensure the safety of the staff and the visitors to the building?

**Answer:** The testing was completed in February and the results were received in March. During the initial screening, very low levels of Legionella were found in four locations in the building. These amounts were so small that they did not warrant immediate remediation.

21. **Question:** If cultures from water testing take 10-12 days to complete, how can the building be reopened on 04/24/23?

**Answer:** Per our environmental consultant, the building was able to be reopened because multiple safety measures were implemented: chemical flushing of the water system, installation of medical-grade filters at every faucet and replacement of aerators.

22. **Question:** Did the air conditioning units in our building get checked and treated?

**Answer:** The air conditioning units use refrigerant and are not water-cooled, and therefore do not need to be checked and/or treated for this incident. As for routine maintenance and repairs, HVAC unit #5 was recently replaced on March 16, 2023. The HVAC system uses the recommended MERV 13 filter, which is changed quarterly.

23. **Question:** One staff from suite 107 reported a chemical odor in the suite. They state they walked in around 1 p.m. and stayed for about 10 minutes but reported feeling dizzy from the smell.

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**Answer:** The chemical flushing and filter installs were completed by Sunday, April 23, 2023. No odors were reported during and/or after the completion of this work. Building management inspected Suite 107 after receiving this inquiry and found a "stale locker room odor." While our custodial staff performed a detailed cleaning of the entire building, the recycle bins may still have odors emanating from them. Any space, safety or health concerns should be reported immediately to the building manager or by contacting our Customer Service Center.

24. **Question:** Regarding the testing of the building's water system, I understand it was tested and filters placed. Were chemicals used as well and should an odor be expected?

**Answer:** Yes, chemicals were used to flush the system. An odor should not be expected.

25. **Question:** What is DGS' water sampling testing plan after (if any) since the filters were installed and flushing occurred Specifically, when and where in the building is DGS planned to perform additional water sampling tests (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> floor janitors closet every 3 months beginning ### date)?

**Answer:** After chemical flushing, DGS sample-tested locations that previously tested positive as well as any other areas recommended by our consultant. Routine water sampling will be part of the water management plan, which will be developed once DGS has an executed contract.

26. **Question:** Have any tests been performed since 4/17 and 4/18? And if so, where?

**Answer:** Tests were performed on May 2 at all locations that tested positive. This decision is based on the samples taken on 4/17/23 and in consultation with our vendor. The Department of Industrial Relations also conducted its own testing.

27. **Question:** Can DGS confirm the middle sink in the 2nd floor women's bathroom was closed/marked off for usage during the sampling that occurred on 4/17/23 and 4/18/23?

**Answer:** There is not a middle sink in the second-floor women's bathroom. There are only two sinks, and they were not closed during the sampling that occurred on 4/17/23 and 4/18/23.

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28. **Question:** Can DGS confirm the middle sink in the 2nd floor women's bathroom is closed/marked off for usage currently? If possible, can you send me a picture that I can share with DIR staff?



**Answer:** There is not a middle sink in the second-floor women's bathroom. There are only two sinks, and they were not closed during the sampling that occurred on 4/17/23 and 4/18/23. Both sinks are currently operational. The first sink's faucet was replaced on 4/24/23, the entire building was chemically flushed on 4/20/23, medical-grade filters were installed on 4/21/23, and the aerators were replaced. Below is a picture of the second-floor women's bathroom sinks.

29. **Question:** What was the location of the faucets that were positive? Regarding the updated filters on the faucets, where are they located? Have they updated the filters on the faucets in the office kitchens? I drink the tap water from the kitchen unfiltered and we make office coffee with that water also. Will they be putting the hospital grade filters on those faucets?

**Answer:** The faucets that tested positive are located in the janitor's mop sink (first and second floors), and the men's (first and second floor) and women's (second floor) restrooms. In-line filters were installed on every faucet throughout the building, including kitchen faucets.

30. **Question:** I do have some concerns regarding the remediation measures undertaken. The CDC links to an article that finds a strong suggestion that the studied population sick with a specific strain of LD had been contaminated by toilet water while flushing.

**Answer:** That article concluded that a further study was needed to determine if toilet flushing could cause aerosolization of Legionella.

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31. **Question:** What is done to prevent transmission through toilet flushing?

**Answer:** Toilets are disinfected daily by DGS custodial staff and are equipped with automatic sensors for hands-free flushing, which would reduce the risk of individuals being exposed.

32. **Question:** I'm concerned there may be a bit of a gap in information available in the community. It appears from some sources DGS was aware of this issue in February, but awareness and building closure did not occur until April. Are you able to comment on what transpired between those dates?

**Answer:** In February 2023, DGS' environmental consultant sampled 12 areas of the San Diego building as part of a newly established statewide water management program that began as a preventive measure in February of 2022. When we received the results in March 2023, they ranged between "no detection" and 14 cfu/mL. The consultant recommended shutting down the areas sampled that had a result of 5.0 cfu/mL or greater, and we began remediation on those areas. The consultant did not recommend closing the entire building. The remediation included stringent cleaning and nonchemical flushing of the areas. When we were notified on April 10, 2023, that an individual associated with the building had a possible case of Legionnaires' disease, we immediately closed the building out an abundance of caution. We then brought our consultant back to the building and sampled 25 areas. The results from those areas ranged between "no detection" and 250 cfu/mL, and there was one outlier of 11,300 cfu/mL. We then immediately began the consultant-recommended remediation, including chemical flushing of the system, which included chlorine dioxide. In addition, we placed medical-grade filters at all faucets in the building and replaced all aerators. DGS also completely replaced the faucet where the outlier sample result occurred. We are awaiting the results of DIR's testing, as well as DGS's retesting conducted on May 2, 2023, to confirm the efficacy of the chemical flushing.

33. **Question:** Was the bacteria found in the building the same as the bacteria that gave the state employee Legionnaires' disease even if you are unable to confirm whether the employee actually contracted it from the building?



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**Answer:** A case of Legionnaires' disease in a visitor to the Mission Valley building was reported to the patient's local health department. Based on the available information, it is impossible to definitively link the patient's infection to an exposure source. Because Legionella are naturally occurring in the environment, they can be present in a variety of settings, including community and residential settings. It is not uncommon to detect Legionella during testing of water systems.

34. **Question:** Given that SDSU also had a positive in their water system back in February and SDSU just reopened their buildings last week after being closed for cleaning, how can we be confident our system is completely safe after only two weeks closed when it took SDSU over six weeks to re-open?

**Answer:** DGS cannot speak to the efforts that SDSU performed to ensure their building was safe. However, DGS performed remediation based on CDC guidelines, as well as industry standards and contractor recommendations. DGS is waiting for sample results taken after chemical remediation and in-line filter installation. These results will confirm the effectiveness of the chemical remediation as well as the in-line filters.

35. **Question:** Was any Legionella testing being done in 2020?

**Answer:** In 2020 and throughout the beginning of the pandemic, DGS' Facilities Management Division (FMD) maintained/cleaned/sterilized building water fountain and water access areas in accordance with strict cleaning standards, and maintained water machinery (coolers/chillers, etc.) in accordance with industry maintenance standards. We also began purposely flushing water pipes/systems to reduce instances of stagnant water lines.

FMD partnered with Millennium Environment Consulting Associates (the testing contractor) to fully educate the FMD team on all possible legionella strands and potential health impacts, remediation strategies etc. FMD began the initial remediation process (water flushing, stringent cleaning at known sites, closing off the few known high-level contaminated areas until flushing and cleaning occurred). FMD then coordinated tests for the entire DGS

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building portfolio out of an abundance of caution in late 2022. Further, FMD initiated the contract process to establish chemical remediation plans, to hire a water management consultant, and to create a statewide water management plan while also significantly bolstering our in-house health and safety team of industrial hygienists. If a tested area was found to have a level of detection, that area was closed off, flushed, and then retested.

**36. Question:** Questions about the state's process regarding discovery and notification. In 2022, it was noted that Legionnaire's was found in a state building. Was CDPH notified in 2022 of that finding, and when were they notified?

**Answer:** CDPH does not require reporting of Legionella detections in environmental samples, such as from building water systems. Only cases and outbreaks of Legionnaires' Disease (LD) are required to be reported to public health.

**37. Question:** Do the current tests now show no presence of Legionella or any miniscule amounts? Can we see the final test reports?

**Answer:** Final reports for testing conducted on 2/2/23 and 4/17-18/23 have been provided to DGS. The final report for testing post-chemical remediation is not available at this time. The reports DGS has received show a variety of results depending on the fixture. Final reports received by DGS will be made available on an external webpage, which will be shared once completed.

**38. Question:** When was the specific date of retesting of the Mission Valley building done and what were those results?

**Answer:** DGS' consultant last tested the Mission Valley building on April 18, 2023, prior to the remediation efforts. The test sampled 25 areas. The results from those areas showed ranged from "no detection" to 250 cfu/mL, and there was one outlier of 11,300 cfu/mL. We then immediately began the consultant-recommended remediation, including chemical flushing of the system, which included chlorine dioxide. In addition, we placed medical-grade filters at all faucets in the building and replaced all aerators. DGS also completely replaced the faucet where the outlier sample result occurred. A retest of the building was done on May 2, 2023. Those results are still pending but will be shared once available. The

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Department of Industrial Relations also conducted its own testing.

39. **Question:** When our building received a positive in the water system, were other agencies such as the CDC, public health and OSHA notified immediately? If not, when were they notified? When was “Millennium” first notified or hired by DGS, and can we get a copy of their records from testing done in the building?

**Answer:** CDPH, CDC, OSHA or Cal/OSHA do not require reporting of Legionella detections in environmental samples, such as from building water systems. In California, healthcare providers and laboratories are required to report cases of Legionnaires' disease to public health. Millennium Consulting was contracted with DGS initially on 5/12/2022 to conduct statewide Legionella testing. Final reports received by DGS will be made available on an external webpage, which will be shared once completed.

40. **Question:** In 2022, DGS started testing for Legionella. In what state building was that? And why was testing not deployed for the Mission Valley building until 2023?

**Answer:** DGS selected buildings for the initial testing of Legionella based on building age, size, and most recent renovation. The first building to be tested was in San Francisco in early 2022.

41. **Question:** Was the water tested before all the employees returned to the building after the COVID shutdown?

**Answer:** In 2020 and throughout the beginning of the pandemic, DGS' Facilities Management Division (FMD) maintained/cleaned/sterilized building water fountain and water access areas in accordance with strict cleaning standards, and maintained water machinery (coolers/chillers, etc.) in accordance with industry maintenance standards. We also began purposely flushing water pipes/systems to reduce instances of stagnant water lines.

DGS FMD first tested the Mission Valley building for Legionella on 2/2/23. FMD partnered with Millennium Environment Consulting Associates (the testing contractor) to fully educate the FMD team on all possible Legionella strands and potential health impacts, remediation strategies, etc. FMD began the initial remediation

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process (water flushing, stringent cleaning at known sites, closing off the few known high-level contaminated areas until flushing and cleaning occurred). FMD then coordinated tests for the entire DGS building portfolio out of an abundance of caution in late 2022. Further, FMD initiated the contract process to establish chemical remediation plans, to hire a water management consultant, and to create a statewide water management plan while also significantly bolstering our in-house health and safety team of industrial hygienists. If a tested area was found to have a level of detection, that area was closed off, flushed, and then retested.

42. **Question:** For the testing done in Mission Valley in 2023, who made the assessment that the levels do not need any action at the time of the February test results? Was that Millennium, CDPH, or some other state authority? Why were these results not shared with the tenants or the public?

**Answer:** For testing done on 2/2/23, results identified as action level 2 and 3, according to American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) guidelines, warranted remediation and DGS conducted remediation shortly after receiving the results on 2/27/23. Results are not required to be shared with tenants unless requested; however, we will be sharing the results on an external webpage, which will be shared once completed.

43. **Question:** From the FAQ, "It is not recommended to send staff in while subject matter experts are flushing lines, installing filters and introducing remediation chemicals." Why then were staff not kept away during the "immediate remediation" efforts undertaken in February after the initial 4 samples were discovered? Was it a different remediation process since only trace amounts were found in the February sample and remediation?

**Answer:** The consultant recommended shutting down the areas sampled that had a result of 5.0 cfu/mL or more, and we began remediation on those areas. The consultant did not recommend closing the entire building. The remediation included stringent cleaning of the areas and nonchemical flushing of the areas. The remediation process that took place following the February testing was standard remediation, which takes the form of flushing with no additional chemicals. This type of remediation is used for lower levels of Legionella and routine management of water systems.

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Chemical remediation involves introducing levels of chlorine dioxide that are not safe for consumption. Chemical remediation is complete when the subject matter experts confirm the concentration of the chlorine dioxide is below the limits set by both the California Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

44. **Question:** With respect, if the result findings were deemed “so small that they did not warrant action beyond immediate remediation,” how will this help those who are immune compromised? Will there be changes and more communication in the future so that those who have health issues consult with our physicians?

**Answer:** Office buildings are not considered “at-risk” facilities, according to CDC. Settings commonly associated with increased risk for LD include hospitals, long-term care facilities, and hotels with large, complex water systems. The remediation actions and prevention measures enacted for the Mission Valley building are commensurate with or go beyond what would normally be recommended for Legionella detections in a similar office building. DGS will continue to follow CDC and CDPH recommendations in terms of remediation based on action levels set in the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) guidelines. DGS will continue to monitor for Legionella in this building and will continue to communicate findings with all building tenants so that everyone, including those with health issues, can follow up with their physicians as appropriate.

45. **Question:** The CDC website you referred us to states that there is “No safe level” of Legionella and that Legionella cases with very low levels of bacteria. Who determined there is a safe level of Legionella in the water supply?

**Answer:** American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) guidelines set action levels for remediation efforts. AIHA states, for potable water, <1.0 cfu/mL is considered the detection limit and therefore is “acceptably low.” Because Legionella are naturally occurring in the environment, they can be present in a variety of settings, including community and residential settings. It is not uncommon to detect Legionella during testing of water systems, and the bacteria can enter and recolonize water systems even after remediation actions

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are done to eliminate Legionella. Therefore, water management is focused on controlling the underlying factors that support the growth of Legionella (i.e., sediment and biofilm, temperature, water age, and disinfectant residual). Though there is no known safe level of Legionella, using thresholds to guide remediation actions helps to provide context to help monitor the performance of the building's water management plan and adjust maintenance activities over time, with the knowledge that detections of Legionella may occur periodically.

46. **Question:** SDSU's positive-case associated ENS building has been closed since mid-February, only reopened today, 4/24/23, yet somehow 7575 Metropolitan was deemed safe in less than 14 days since the initial case report on 4/10/23 (with still-positive samples as recently as 4/14)? Why was remediation as simple as installing some filters on and flushing the pipes, when it was a more involved process for SDSU? (From SDSU's Legionella mitigation FAQ stating, "...it is important to take ample time for testing and assessment. The initial test collection process in the ENS buildings took three days. All samples were taken immediately to a state accredited laboratory and the incubation period for the culture of samples which can take several weeks. After that time, any bacterial colonies that form are analyzed for the presence of Legionella pneumophila. Cultures were also then DNA sequenced").

**Answer:** DGS cannot speak to the efforts that SDSU performed to ensure their building was safe. However, DGS performed remediation based on CDC guidelines, as well as industry standards and contractor recommendations.

47. **Question:** Which labs have been accepting the samples for our building, and are they state-certified and duly accredited? How long are the samples incubated, and was DNA sequencing performed? Which department has custody of these records, and how could we go about obtaining copies of this testing?

**Answer:** Initial sampling collected on 2/2/23 was sent to LA Testing, under EMSL Analytical, which are CDC Environmental Legionella Isolation Techniques Evaluation (ELITE) certified. Sampling collected on 4/17-4/18/2023 was sent to Environmental Safety Technologies, which is also CDC ELITE certified. PCR results from both sampling events provided serogroup specification. Final reports received by

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DGS will be made available on an external webpage, which will be shared once completed.

48. **Question: Medical Questions about Legionella** - Would like to understand more about Legionella. Will you have a doctor at the town hall to explain how dangerous this disease is? Is it contagious or deadly? Is it contracted by ingestion, accidentally swallowing water into the lungs, and/or by inhalation?

**Answer:** While DGS does not have a medical doctor on staff, more information can be found by visiting CDC legionella information page: <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html>. We will also have subject matter experts from CDPH at the May 9 town hall. They will share information about disease symptoms, transmission, and treatment during the town hall event.

Most people exposed to Legionella do not develop illness. People at increased risk for illness include: people 50 years of age or older, current or former smokers, people with chronic lung disease (like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or emphysema, people with weak immune systems or who take drugs that weaken the immune system (like after a transplant operation or chemotherapy), people with cancer, and people with underlying illnesses such as diabetes, kidney failure, or liver failure.

In general, LD is not transmitted person-to-person. Infection occurs when a susceptible person breathes in mists or aerosols contaminated with Legionella. Rarely, infection can occur when a susceptible person aspirates water contaminated with Legionella (i.e., when water accidentally gets into the lungs while drinking). People at increased risk of aspiration include those with swallowing difficulties. LD can cause severe pneumonia, but most cases are treated successfully with antibiotics.

49. **Question:** Drinking water faucets do create water droplets we can inhale. Are they safe to use?

**Answer:** Drinking water fountains at Mission Valley have been confirmed to be chilled below the temperature range that legionella bacteria grow. Devices that generate more mist or aerosols like hot tubs, cooling towers, or showerheads, pose a

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greater risk of exposure than devices that generate fewer aerosols, like drinking fountains. Drinking fountains are not cited by CDC as a common source of infection.

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/about/causes-transmission.html>

**50. Question:** Have we asked the employees if anyone has experienced any respiratory symptoms in the past couple of months? Per news reports, the Legionnaires' disease has variants now since the 1980s and the old testing may not detect a current variant. Have we heard of any other positive cases outside of the initial positive that was reported?

**Answer:** DGS has not received any additional reports of Legionnaires' disease in people associated with the building. Legionnaires' disease (LD) is caused by bacteria, not a virus. There are approximately 60 species of Legionella, many of which can cause human disease. However, most cases of LD are associated with one strain of Legionella, specifically Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1. Testing of respiratory specimens can detect all strains of Legionella. No additional cases of LD potentially associated with the Mission Valley building have been reported to public health.

**51. Question:** Why isn't the state providing free testing for all employees?

**Answer:** It is not recommended to be tested for Legionnaire's disease unless a medical doctor suspects you may have the diseases. Most people exposed to Legionella do not develop illness, and testing is only recommended for patients with symptoms of LD. The building was closed out of an abundance of caution; not in response to an outbreak.

**52. Question:** What symptoms do we need to look out for?

**Answer:** Symptom information can be found by visiting the CDC legionella information page: <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/index.html>. Because the building was closed starting 4/10 and symptoms usually begin 2-14 days after a person is exposed to the bacteria, the time for development of LD symptoms from exposure to any Legionella prior to filter installation in this building has passed by now. Nonetheless, talk with your doctor if you experience symptoms suggestive of LD.



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53. **Question:** My understanding from the last meeting that no one has died (employee/contractor/or otherwise) associated with our building, was that correct? How do you know they haven't died if you are not getting any updates on their condition?

**Answer:** DGS has not provided any information or status regarding the person with the reported case as we do not have, nor are we privy to, that information. We have not been told of any deaths.

54. **Question:** General Question/Sentiments Complaints about lack of heat last winter. Now this is a different situation, but the same individuals involved, but you are asking us to trust you. If you can't handle the heat, how can you handle a microbe that can kill people. Why can't we telework 100% given the circumstances with the building.

**Answer:** Telework is up to each individual department. Telework concerns should be directed to the appropriate contact within your department.

55. **Question:** The building is open, but town hall hasn't happened. Concern of lack of urgency on the part of DGS. Why is communication not happening more broadly with tenants or sooner?

**Answer:** Executives of the departments in the building are being provided the information and should be funneling it down to their employees. DGS has acted with urgency from the moment we received a reported case of Legionnaires' disease in a person associated with the building. The town hall is scheduled for May 9, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

56. **Question:** Can DGS please return the building's HVAC to normal operating hours in DIR suites? DIR no longer needs the HVAC turned off from 7 a.m.- 11 a.m.

**Answer:** HVAC was returned to normal operations on 3/23/23 per DIR's request.

57. **Question:** DIR is requesting DGS conduct a town hall with their sampling vendor, CPDH, DIR staff and building tenants to attend. We would like DGS to conduct this town hall to address past, current, and future samplings and their results, building history with Legionella, safety measures that DGS will be taking going forward, and how DGS plans to

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communicate with tenants for future sampling events and results (not just in San Diego).

**Answer:** A town hall will be scheduled for May 9, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

58. **Question:** I've been asked if there will be a town hall for agencies to ask questions about the mitigation efforts and reopening of the SD Mission Valley building. If a town hall is being scheduled, when can we anticipate receiving that information?

**Answer:** A town hall is scheduled for May 9, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.