

## 7575 Metropolitan Drive San Diego Frequently Asked Questions

**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; 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.

**Question:** Why did DGS start testing the building for legionella?

**Answer:** As a preventative measure, in 2022, FMD began testing sample sites of DGS' building portfolio throughout the state.

**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 few/known high level contaminated areas until flushing and cleaning occurred). FMD then coordinated tests for the whole DGS building portfolio out of abundance of caution in late 2022. Further, FMD began initiating the contract process to establish chemical remediation plan(s), 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.

**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.

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

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

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

**Answer:** It is not recommended to send staff in while subject matter experts are flushing lines, installing filters and introducing remediation chemicals - work is currently underway. In addition, the building is scheduled to open Monday, April 24, 2023. We have remained in constant communication with our tenants to ensure a smooth transition during this time.

**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.

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

**Answer:** We do plan to hold an open meeting for staff and tenants to ask questions with the California Department of Public Health, attending local public health agency experts and our team of industry contractors soon. In addition, we do not have (and do not anticipate receiving) information regarding the person who was reported to have contracted legionnaires disease.

**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 so, we would not know how the person became infected.

**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 supply.

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

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**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.

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

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

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

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

**Question:** How should a suspected diagnosis of legionnaire's 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 should be contacted, who then would notify the county health department for purposes of their investigations.

**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.

**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.