

Ronald Reagan State Building Town Hall Questions Unanswered Live

- 1. Questions: 1) Is it safe to use the water when pregnant/trying to get pregnant? 2) Is it safe to use the water when immunocompromised? 3) If we have minimum mandatory days in the office every week, why can't we work from home while the water is fixed? 4) How long will it take to fix the water? 5) Is there a risk that it is airborne due to the toilet flushing? 6) Will we be informed when the water is fixed?**

Answers: **1)** Pregnancy is not a risk factor for infection with *Legionella*, and people who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant can continue to use Ronald Reagan Building (RRB) water as normal. **2)** Though immunocompromising conditions can increase a person's risk of *Legionella* infection, infection remains rare and there are no recommendations at this time from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for RRB occupants to restrict or change typical water usage patterns.

3) Water can be used as normal, even while remediation efforts are underway. **4)** While we cannot predict how long it will take for the building water system to be fully remediated, building-wide disinfection started on Oct. 20 and will continue for at least 30 days. Systemwide disinfection is a common approach to *Legionella* remediation and in most cases works very quickly to reduce *Legionella* levels. Post-remediation testing will then be conducted to evaluate the efficacy of the remediation efforts, and conclusions regarding the status of the building water system will be made based on sampling data and risk assessment. **5)** Toilets can generate aerosols, but the volume of aerosols generated is less than those emitted by other devices commonly associated with *Legionella* infection (e.g., hot tubs, cooling towers, decorative fountains, showerheads, etc.) and are therefore not considered to pose a high risk of exposure. **6)** Building tenants will be informed when remediation efforts have concluded.

- 2. Question: For Cal-Tot – Can the outdoor hose faucet be tested, as that water is used for play and other activities?**

Answer: That specific faucet was not tested. However, because the systemwide domestic cold water is being subjected to supplemental disinfection, all fixtures – including the Cal-Tot outdoor faucet – should be subject to disinfection. The water can be used normally during the disinfection period.

Ronald Reagan State Building Town Hall Questions Unanswered Live

3. Question: I couldn't get sound to work until 10 minutes in. Is there Legionella in the building?

Answer: Some areas of the Ronald Reagan building water did test positive for Legionella bacteria.

4. Question: Will the building provide non-contaminated water to employees until the system is decontaminated?

Answer: DGS will not be providing additional water as the building water can be used as normal, even while remediation efforts are underway. The method of disinfection selected is designed for water systems that will be used normally. This method of disinfection is common and has been widely used in settings such as health care and hospitals.

5. Question: If there are questions that come up later, is there a method to have those questions submitted and answered?

Answer: Please visit the Legionella Action Plan at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/FMD/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/Legionella-Action-Plan>

6. Question: One of the building's tenants is a child care facility serving an age group starting from several weeks old (i.e., newly developing immune system). The water is heavily relied on for everything from warming baby bottles to washing hands. Does the subject matter expert recommend additional safety measures for the child care facility (e.g., water filters, etc.)?

Answer: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations do not indicate that children are a group that is at high risk for Legionella-related illness. Cases of Legionellosis are rarely seen in children. The recommendations that have been made related to remediation of Legionella in the building apply to all areas of the building. There are no additional recommendations for the Cal-Tot child care facility. The disinfectant being applied to the water is being dosed at a concentration that is no greater than what is allowed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Water can be used as it normally would be used during the disinfection period.

Ronald Reagan State Building Town Hall Questions Unanswered Live

7. Question: Does flushing the toilet put the water into the air? If so, what should we do?

Answer: There is potential for aerosol generation to occur during toilet flushing, however the risk associated with toilets is generally considered to be low. Transmission of Legionellosis from toilets is very rare. Additionally, toilets are served by the building's domestic cold water system. Because the systemwide domestic cold water is being subjected to supplemental disinfection, all fixtures – including toilets – should be subject to disinfection. Toilets can be used as they normally would be used during the disinfection period.

8. Question: When and how often will future test results be reported to building occupants?

Answer: Future test results will be available to building occupants after DGS receives reports from contracted environmental consultants.

9. Questions: When will the tenants be formally notified that the water is now safe to use and consume? And why haven't the water fountains been shut down and off?

Answer: There are no recommendations at this time from CDPH for RRB occupants to restrict or change typical water usage patterns. Water can be used as normal, even while remediation efforts are underway.

10. Question: If you worked in RRB, would you change any of your normal activities?

Answer: No, I would not change any of my normal activities if I worked in RRB.

11. Question: In July, August and September I drank water out of the fountains every day. Why wasn't I told about this long ago?

Answer: Systemic contamination was not suspected with previous testing.

12. Question: For the preschool – Can the outside hose spigot be tested after the present disinfection, as that water is used for various activities with the children?

Ronald Reagan State Building Town Hall Questions Unanswered Live

Answer: The post-remediation sampling plan will be designed to include representative fixtures throughout the building. It is not feasible to collect samples from every fixture within the building, however fixtures in the child care center will be considered as part of the post-remediation sampling plan.

13. Question: Who do we email if we have more questions?

Answer: Please visit the Legionella Action Plan at <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/FMD/Resources/Page-Content/Resources-List-Folder/Legionella-Action-Plan>