

To: Heads of Department/Section, Executive Deans,  
HSLOs and DHSOs, Faculty Managers

Action

## Legionella Policy and Management Plan (PMP)

USG has approved a new University Legionella PMP, which set out responsibilities and arrangements for managing the risk of exposure of legionellosis.

### About Legionellosis

Legionellosis is a collective term for diseases caused by legionella bacteria. The most serious, Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia. The bacteria that causes legionellosis are common in natural water sources. They may also be found in purpose-built water systems such as hot and cold water systems and spa pools. If conditions are favourable, the bacteria may grow, increasing the risks of Legionnaires' disease. Exposure is usually through inhaling contaminated water when it is dispersed in the air as an aerosol.

The University has measures in place to control the risk. These include maintaining water temperatures so that they are outside the range at which the bacteria grows, regular descaling and flushing little used water outlets to ensure water cannot stagnate

### What you need to do

The Estate Management Section (EMS) has prime responsibility for managing risks from legionella in fixed water systems that are part of the "built environment". However you may also have responsibilities:

- If you have sinks, showers or other water outlets in your area of responsibility that are used less than weekly, a regular flushing regime will be necessary to prevent legionella build up. You will need to inform EMS, so that a flushing system can be set up
- If you are responsible for equipment that holds or circulates water, you will need to check whether there is a legionella risk and, if so, implement suitable controls.
- For some areas EMS will need to regularly visit departments to carry out flushing, descaling and, where necessary, other remedial work. Your assistance may be needed in gaining access to affected water outlets.
- If you have been given responsibility for flushing, cleaning or scale removal you have a responsibility to attend training and follow safe working procedures for the control of legionella.

### Find out more

The [Legionealla website](#) gives an overview of the Legionella and the University's Legionella PMP, with links to the full PMP. Please read to website and make sure that you know your responsibilities and the action you need to take to meet them.

If you have any queries on the Legionella PMP please contact HSAS, or, for Estate Management Section Staff, your line manager.