



COURSE: INFORMATION / ASSESSMENT FOR LEGIONNAIRES (LEGIONELLA) DISEASE

David Weston, Retired Secretary of Enmore Park GC, provides information about the risks of Legionnaires Disease.

August 2010 *(reviewed October 2012)*

Legionella

It is a Bacteria found in water. It is responsible for causing Legionnaire's Disease, which has flu-like symptoms but in the young and old may cause serious illness or even be fatal.

Temperature

Affects the survival of Legionella are as follows:

- ☹ At 60°C (140°F) - Legionella dies instantly - pasteurisation occurs.
- ☹ At 55°C (131°F) - 95% of Legionella die
- ☹ 50-55°C (122-131°F) - They can survive but do not multiply
- ☹ 35-46°C (95-115°F) - Ideal growth range
- ☹ 20-50°C (68-122°F) - Legionella growth range
- ☹ Below 20°C (68°F) - Legionella can survive but are dormant, even below freezing.

There is a possible Risk to Greens Staff, Golfers and the Public. The principal risk is by inhaling fine droplets of water containing the disease. There is a very low risk from drinking contaminated water.

Development

It is likely only if stagnant water experiences a marked temperature rise, as could occur in an above ground storage tank/ hand watering hose-pipe/ pond during a sustained period of warm weather.

Irrigation System	Risk
Computer controlled Regular Use Overnight	Low
Daytime Regular Use	Low
Start-up after a Warm Spell of weather Overnight Use	Low
Start-up after a Warm Spell of weather Daytime Use	Medium

Risk Reduction

If commencing Irrigation following a spell of warm weather, avoid staff hand watering and follow a sequence of watering that will minimise the possibility of golfers playing to greens or on tees where irrigation is in progress. Preferably in the early morning prior to play commencing.

Drinking Water Fountains

There is a **LOW** risk. However, Notices should be displayed on each fountain advising that the water be allowed to run cold before drinking.

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