

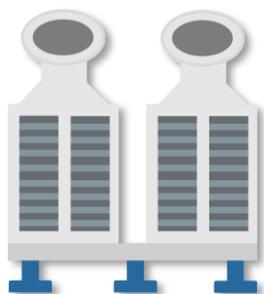
# Safely reopen buildings to reduce the risk of waterborne illness

Stagnant water in underused or unused building water and plumbing systems can lead to waterborne illnesses, like Legionnaires' disease. As buildings and businesses reopen after an extended shutdown, there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of illness and keep people safe.



Flush hot and cold water through all points of use (e.g., showers, sink faucets) to replace all water inside building piping with fresh water. Keep the temperature in hot water systems above 122°F and cold-water systems below 74°F.

Clean all decorative water features, such as fountains. Ensure they are free of visible slime or biofilm.



Ensure cooling towers are cleaned, disinfected, and maintained according to manufacturer's instructions to prevent *Legionella*.

For detailed information, guidance, and training, visit [www.doh.wa.gov/COVID19/Legionella](http://www.doh.wa.gov/COVID19/Legionella).

- [Guidance for Reopening School Water Systems](#)
- [Guidance for \*Legionella\* & Building Water System Closures](#)

