

Recommissioning of water system- reopening of buildings

It is important that taps are turned on slowly and not turned on full to reduce the production of water in droplet and aerosol form.

1. Gently run cold water through system for at least 2 mins or until water runs cold from the outside mains supply rather than from the internal system, and clean all fittings- taps etc.
2. Remove shower heads and disinfect or replace heads and hoses.
3. With the shower head removed to reduce aerosols (a plastic bag with a small hole in can be fixed to the hose to reduce the risk of aerosols) run hot water through shower for min 2 mins after reaching a temperature above 60 degrees C.
4. Put bleach into toilet cistern, leave for 1 hour and then flush through the toilet with lid closed
5. Bring hot water tank to above 60 degrees C and flush through hot water for min 2 mins with the temperature running through the tap at temperature.
6. Draw a schematic of the water system to identify any dead legs and any potential cool spots for the hot water system where then temperature of the water may fall below 60 degrees C, such as areas that are inadequately insulated.
7. Write down the actions taken prior to reopening to demonstrate that the risks have been considered and mitigating actions taken to reduce the risk of exposure to staff and public to contaminated water.

Systems should be flushed weekly following recommissioning- this may occur naturally where the property is occupied, but where unoccupied for more than 7 days a flush should take place to prevent stagnation of water within the system.

More guidance can be found using the following links:

https://www.legionellacontrol.org.uk/_data/pdf/LCA-Guidance-for-Members-on-Reopening-Buildings-V2-1643.pdf

[https://www.cieh.org/media/4208/legionella-guidance-covid-19.pdf?utm_campaign=11539549_Coronavirus%20Newsletter%20No%](https://www.cieh.org/media/4208/legionella-guidance-covid-19.pdf?utm_campaign=11539549_Coronavirus%20Newsletter%20No%20)

[207%2013052020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=CIEH&dm_i=1RSV,6VBZ1,B87830,RKLG1,1](https://www.water.org.uk/publication/recovering-drinking-water-supplies-in-buildings-and-networks-after-prolonged-inactivity/)

<https://www.water.org.uk/publication/recovering-drinking-water-supplies-in-buildings-and-networks-after-prolonged-inactivity/>

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/reopening-checklist-for-food-businesses-during-covid-19-form.pdf>