

Talk No: 50	Title: LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE
<p>Introduction: Legionnaires' Disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia that was first identified in 1976 among people who attended an American Legion Convention in Philadelphia.</p>	
<p>Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The agent that causes Legionnaires' disease is a bacterium called Legionella pneumophila. People catch Legionnaires' disease by inhaling small droplets of water suspended in the air (aerosols), which contain the bacteria. – Naturally occurring in environmental water sources, such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. However, the conditions are rarely right for people to catch the disease from these sources. – Outbreaks of the illness mainly occur from exposure to Legionella growing in purpose-built systems where the water is maintained at a temperature high enough to encourage growth. <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – People of any age may get Legionnaires' disease, but the illness most often affects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Males (3 times more likely than females 3:1 ratio) ○ Those over 45 years' old ○ Smokers and alcoholics ○ Those whose immune system is lowered by illness – It cannot be passed on person to person. – Certain conditions increase the risk of increased growth of Legionella. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Temperature (Legionella bacteria thrive at temperatures between 20-45°C). ○ A source of nutrients, e.g. sludge, scale, rust, algae and other organic matter ○ A way of creating and spreading breathable droplets, e.g. the aerosol created by a shower, spray inserts etc. – Ensure the release of water spray is properly controlled. – Avoid water temperatures and conditions that favour the growth of Legionella. – Ensure water cannot stagnate anywhere in the system by keeping pipe lengths as short as possible, and/or by removing redundant pipework. – Avoid materials that encourage the growth of Legionella – Keep the system and the water in it clean <p style="text-align: center;">MANAGED WATER SYSTEMS – DON'T HAVE PROBLEMS</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	