

Legionnaires Disease Policy

Inmind Reference:	OPS09
Category:	Operational Policy
Version Number:	V2.0
Reviewed on:	July 2019
Next review date:	July 2021
Lead Officer:	Director of Nursing
Equality Impact Assessment completed:	Yes

Applicable Legislation/Regulations:

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Codes of Practice:

Legionnaires' disease: The control of legionella bacteria in water systems - Approved Code of Practice and guidance (L8)

Purpose:

To provide all relevant staff within Inmind Healthcare with the appropriate guidance to minimise and manage the risk posed by legionella.

Version Control Table

Date Ratified	Version Number	Status
Jan 2018	1.2	Closed
Jul 2019	2.0	Live

Date	Key Revision
Jan 2018	Addition of how compliance will be ensured
Jan 2018	Addition of training requirements
Jul 2019	Reviewed – No change

Please check to ensure this is the most current electronic copy of this document as it is updated and published in electronic format only (hard copies may become out of date).

Equality Impact Assessment for this policy

Protected Characteristic (domain)	Area of conflict	Resolution
Age	Nil	N/A
Disability	Nil	N/A
Gender Reassignment	Nil	N/A
Pregnancy & Maternity	Nil	N/A
Race	Nil	N/A
Religion or Belief	Nil	N/A
Sex	Nil	N/A
Sexual Orientation	Nil	N/A
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Nil	N/A

All relevant persons are required to comply with this policy and must demonstrate sensitivity and competence in relation to diversity in race, faith, age, gender, disability and sexual orientation. If you feel you are disadvantaged by this policy, please contact the Registered Manager and the service will actively respond to the enquiry.

1.0 The Policy

1.1 Legionnaires' disease

Legionnaires' disease is a pneumonic illness caused by legionella bacteria associated with environmental sources such as hot or cold water systems or cooling water systems in large buildings, such as hotels, services.

Under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR), any cases of legionellosis in an employee who has been exposed to legionella while working with hot and cold water systems that are likely to be contaminated with legionella, MUST be reported to the HSE 's Incident Control Centre.

In addition, the company may report on voluntary basis to PHLS, NHS, or private service laboratories, consultants in communicable disease control (CCDCs), and other health care workers.

The majority of cases of Legionnaires disease (LD), are caused by the bacterium Legionella pneumophila.

Legionella pneumophila is found in natural water supplies and in soil. It is also found in many re-circulating and water supply systems

The symptoms of Legionnaires disease are similar to the symptoms of the flu:

- high temperature, feverishness and chills;
- cough;
- muscle pains;
- headache; and leading on to
- pneumonia, very occasionally
- diarrhoea and signs of mental confusion

The illness is treated with an antibiotic called erythromycin or a similar antibiotic.

Legionella pneumophila is similar to the flu, it is not always easy to diagnose. A blood or urine test will be helpful in deciding whether an illness is or is not Legionnaires 'disease. When doctors are aware that the illness is present in the local community, they have a much better chance of diagnosing it earlier.

2.0 **The Procedure**

1.1 **Legionnaires Prevention Procedures**

It is Inmind's Policy to prevent the occurrence of Legionella as far as is reasonable practicable, within Inmind controlled premises.

All Inmind premises will be subjected to a Legionella Risk assessment and all hot/cold water systems tested and maintenance to prevent the growth of legionella bacteria.

The HSE publication "Legionnaires" disease. The control of legionella bacteria in water systems" Approved Code of Practice and guidance-L8 will be complied with as far as is reasonably practicable.

If any employee or resident /service user suspects that he/she may have got the illness as a consequence of the hot/cold water system at work, then this MUST be reported to the Registered Manager.

The Registered Manager will investigate any suspect legionellosis as soon as possible and take immediate action to isolate any suspect hot/cold water system.

To ensure compliance with these regulations, Inmind:

- Identifies and assesses the risk of legionella bacteria in water systems
- Has measures in place for eliminating or controlling the risk
- Manages the risk via training of appropriate individuals
- Keeps up to date records within each site
- Appropriately monitors any subcontracting arrangements in relation to this

1.2 **Training**

Key senior personnel with responsibility within this area will receive appropriate training in relation to legionella management and their responsibilities.

The Registered Manager of each locality will ensure that any individual allocated to undertake legionella management tasks within their service has an understanding of legionella and is competent in the tasks they are performing.