



Health and Safety

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FAQ's on University Hot Water Outage

Where can I get updates regarding the hot water outage at the University?

Updates on the hot water outage will be posted on the University of Windsor website. www.uwindsor.ca.

Can I wash my hands effectively without hot water?

The Center for Disease Control has a guideline for effective handwashing. Soap and clean cold running water can be used for effective handwashing. <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

How long will my building be without hot water?

The University of Windsor is working on a schedule and will provide more details in the days to come.

What is Legionella?

Legionella is a bacterium that lives in water and is found in both the natural and artificial environments. These bacteria can cause two types of illness in humans, Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac Fever. Legionnaires' disease is a serious respiratory illness that results in pneumonia and Pontiac Fever is a milder illness causing flu like symptoms but not pneumonia.¹

How do I get Legionnaires' disease?

Legionnaires' disease is acquired by the inhalation of aerosols of water containing the bacteria. It is not transmitted from person to person or by ingestion unless aspiration into the lungs occurs.

What are the symptoms of Legionnaires' disease?

In addition to pneumonia, symptoms of Legionnaires' disease include fever, cough, muscle pain and headache. Symptoms start within 2 to 14 days of infection, and can last for several months.¹

Who is at risk of contracting Legionnaires' disease?

The risk of becoming ill from Legionella is quite low for healthy people. Those at an increased risk if exposed to Legionella bacteria include; people over 50 years of age, especially men, smokers, alcoholics, people with diabetes, chronic lung or kidney disease and people with weakened immune systems. It is uncommon for people younger than 20 years of age to get Legionnaires' disease.¹

What should I do if I think I have Legionnaires' disease?

If you have these symptoms or other health concerns, consult your health care provider. Most cases can be treated successfully with antibiotics.¹

How was the Legionella bacteria found?

Legionella bacteria was found in the hot water system during part of a preventative maintenance program of the domestic feeds for hot water and cooling tower systems.

^[1] Public Health Agency of Canada www.phacc-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/legionella-eng/php

² Public Health Ontario www.publichealthontario.ca