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| **Restarting sanitary facilities after a period of inactivity due to the measures taken in the context of the corona crisis - Legionella** |

If a water delivery point (faucet, tap with hand sprayer, shower, bath, humidifier, etc.) or pipe parts are not used /flushed out for more than one week, restarting involves a risk of spreading legionella germs. Legionella pneumophila serotype 1 is the main cause of Pontiac fever and Legionellosis (legionnaires’ disease). It is therefore best to take a number of precautions to minimise health risks.

**Cold water**

Perform a rinsing program in which all cold water taps and pipes are rinsed with cold water.

Fully open the cold water tap and rinse the water delivery point so that the pipe content has been changed approx. 6 times or for approx. 5 minutes.

It is recommended that aerosol formation from splashing water should be prevented to the extent possible, e.g. by placing a sponge or other absorbent material under the jet and disassembling shower heads before rinsing. In the case of non-removable shower heads, a bag with one opening may be placed around the shower head.

**Hot water**

Legionella can also occur in hot water pipes. Legionella germs are killed when thermal disinfection is carried out.

**Work Procedure**

Set the boiler, instantaneous water heater or the hot water production appliance as high as possible (usually set at 50 - 60 °C). Also check the mixing valves of the mixing water (e.g. common showers). Also set the temperature of the mixing valve as high as possible.

1. Measure the temperature at the water delivery point (this may be different to the set temperature).
2. Rinse all hot water taps (rinse duration depends on set temperature)

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| **MEASURED TEMPERATURE** | **RINSE DURATION** |
| 70 °C | 4 min. |
| 65 °C | 10 min. |

1. Watch out for burn injuries!
2. Always rinse with cold water (with regard to danger of burns).

PLEASE NOTE!

* Prevent burn injuries in case of thermal disinfection. Then allow sufficient cold water to flow in order to lower the temperature in the circuit back to previous levels.
* Carry out thermal disinfection when nobody is using a water delivery point (preferably the day before restarting activities).
* Also check whether the pipes can withstand this high temperature. There is a risk of bending, cracks and faster corrosion inside the pipes.

Mensura can help you draw up simplified or extended Legionella management plans.

For more information:

<https://www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/legionella>

*This document was drawn up on 20/04/2020 on the basis of the measures in force on that date.*

It contains general cross-sectoral measures. The applicability must be considered in function of the own business situation.