

## Care Homes – Legionella Control

Care Homes are required to:

- Undertake a risk assessment and ensure there is a programme for controlling Legionella in place.
- Control temperature, which is key to inhibiting the growth of Legionella - hot water must stay hot and cold water should remain cold. Temperatures should be checked in line with the risk assessment.
- Keep water in the system flowing. Stagnant water gives an opportunity for Legionella growth.
- Flush the system regularly, especially when rooms are vacant.
- Check hot and cold water tanks periodically for debris and scale and ensure that they are functioning as they should.
- Remove any redundant pipework.
- Keep records of the monitoring regime.
- Review the risk assessment regularly in case anything changes.

**Employees** should be made aware of the risks associated with Legionella bacteria and what symptoms may be related to Legionnaires' disease.

**Maintenance staff** should know what the control measures are, how to carry out weekly and monthly tasks and when to report if there are any changes, eg. water temperature differs from normal.

**Cleaning/Maintenance staff** need to flush the system and keep the water in the system moving, especially if there is a little-used shower or a vacant room. Staff should be trained how to clean and disinfect showerheads, hoses and taps on a regular basis to prevent a build-up of scale.