

CALIFORNIA CD BRIEF

This weekly report of surveillance and laboratory activities from the Division of Communicable Disease Control of the California Department of Public Health contains information on investigations in progress and/or diagnoses that may not yet be confirmed. **CD Brief** is intended primarily for the use of local health departments and infectious disease professionals, should be considered privileged, and should **NOT be distributed** further.

Report as of 6/17/2020 (Week 25)

In this issue:

- ***CDC GUIDANCE FOR REOPENING BUILDINGS: MINIMIZING RISK OF LEGIONELLA EXPOSURE***

CDC Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation: Minimizing Risk of Legionella Exposure

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently released guidance on how to prepare buildings for reopening following prolonged closure to minimize risk of *Legionella* exposure:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>.

Many buildings and facilities have been shut down for prolonged periods of time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore have experienced decreased usage of their water systems. Stagnant or standing water can facilitate the growth of *Legionella*, resulting in increased risk of exposure to returning occupants when buildings reopen and resume use of their water systems. The CDC guidance provides recommendations on how to decrease risk of *Legionella* exposure for individuals who participate in water system maintenance activities, and water system maintenance steps that building owners can take to minimize the risk of *Legionella* prior to reopening. There is also guidance for mold awareness, monitoring, and remediation during and after prolonged building shutdowns.

Questions regarding legionellosis and this CDC guidance may be directed to Sarah Rutschmann of the CDPH Infectious Diseases Branch at Sarah.Rutschmann@cdph.ca.gov or 510-620-3434.

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