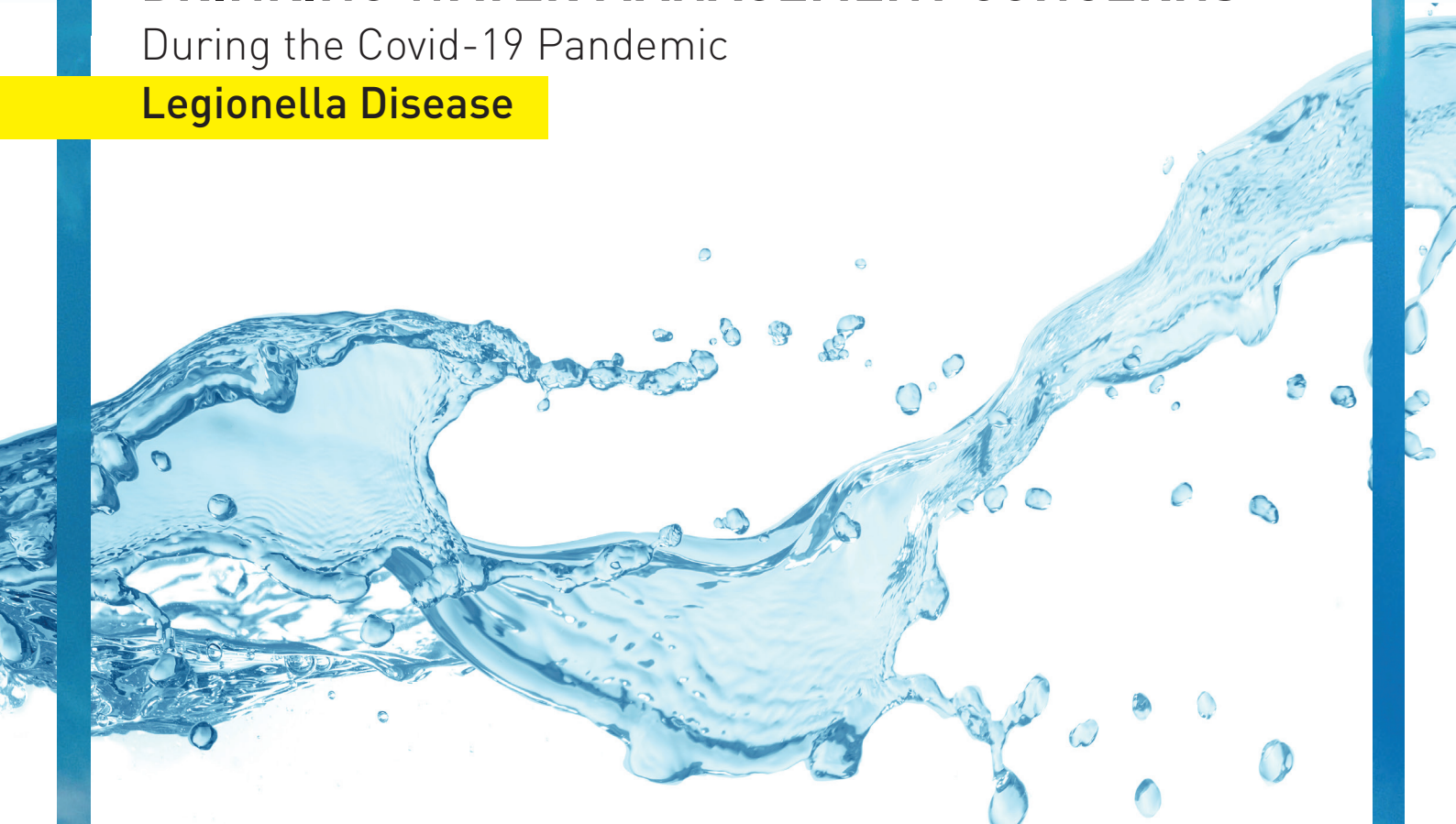


## DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

During the Covid-19 Pandemic

### Legionella Disease



As countries around the world start to see a decline in the daily infection rate, restrictions are being cautiously relaxed and many companies are allowing their employees to return to work.

However Scientists are voicing serious concerns about waterborne infections including Legionella disease (LD)

The Corona Virus Covid -19 and Legionella disease are different but equally life threatening especially for the elderly and people with preexisting medical conditions.

Covid-19 is a virus primarily transmitted by people coughing, sneezing, shouting or singing, transmitting aerosols and droplets onto surfaces.

**Legionella** is the bacteria often found in water systems that have been allowed to become stagnant.

Both Legionella disease and Covid-19 attack the lungs and can lead to increased levels of Morbidity and Mortality.



## The Problem:

When Factories, Hotels, Restaurants, Cafés, Bars, shopping Malls and businesses in general are closed for an extended period of time, as experienced with the current Covid-19 lockdowns, water systems have the potential to become contaminated with bacteria including legionella.

If the correct level of maintenance procedures has not been followed during the closure period, bacteria and viruses will have grown and contaminated the distribution pipe work, cooling towers and any point of use equipment.

## What the Experts say:

Government experts have warned business owners to use caution when re opening buildings that have been closed or underutilized for more than 7-10 days. Ms. Molly Scanlon, leader of the corona virus task force of the American Institute of Architects, said The idea is “to prevent Legionella outbreaks to a) protect people and b) protect already overstretched health systems”, the threat also applies to sprinkler systems and water cooling towers on commercial buildings; these corporations will “likely be aware of the issue of stagnant water. However, “smaller businesses might not”, warns Susanne Surman-Lee, one of the co-authors of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Guidance for Managing Legionella in Building Water Systems

During the COVID-19 Pandemic. But the British microbiologist also adds: “It’s a worldwide problem; one that can be solved with precautions”.



## The Solution:



During the closure of buildings and businesses in general, waterborne pathogens, including legionella, will have enjoyed the potential opportunity to grow and if not treated, cause health problems.

Fortunately **guidelines** have been published to help manage and reduce the risks of growth of waterborne pathogens during the stagnation period. ESGLI Guidance for managing Legionella in building water systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Guidelines:

These extensive guidelines include:

- Flushing systems
- Ensuring the correct levels of hot (min 50c) and cold water (max 25c) is controlled
- Check for biofilm formation including sludge, scale, rust, algae and other organic matter which may collect in the system pipework and calorifier (heated storage water tank) particularly during periods of stagnation
- Chemical shock or continuous disinfection of the system
- Point-of-Use Water Filters can provide an immediate and efficient physical barrier against waterborne bacteria and fungi.
- Maintaining existing treatment plant
- Emptying the water system



We understand that all process plant conditions can vary depending on many factors and for this reason we strongly recommend that you

**contact a member of the Ultrafilter Technical support Team.**