



# Legionella Policy

## All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Church document H&S\_Doc\_001 for all General Health & Safety requirements

### Specific Policy

This Health & Safety (H&S) sub-policy controls the risk of legionella at church.

Legionella (Legionnaires' disease) is an opportunistic infection caused primarily by the inhalation of Legionella bacteria in the form of a water mist, as produced by "splashing water". Legionella bacteria can live in most natural water systems, and they subsequently colonise, the water systems of buildings. Legionella can multiply rapidly in water at temperatures between 20°C and 45°C. As the temperature rises above 60°C the majority of Legionella will be killed within 5 minutes. Below 20°C it remains dormant. Maintaining water temperature above 50°C and below 20°C is therefore the main method of controlling Legionella in our Church water systems (as recommended by the Department of Health, and the UK Health and Safety Executive).

### Reference Documents

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

### Procedure

A risk assessment has been carried out (see appendix 1) and the church management plan for control is.

- 1) It will be ensured that hot water is stored within any cylinder at equal to or greater than 60°C and at hot water outlets (taps) the temperature at those outlets should achieve a temperature of at least 50°C within one minute of turning any tap on.
- 2) It will be ensured that cold outlets should achieve a temperature of below 20°C within one minute of turning any tap on full.

The Risk Assessment has shown that it is unlikely that the font will become a source of Legionella contamination; however, two control features will be used:

- 1) Only recently boiled water should be used in the font (once cooled) or water from a freshly run cold tap.
- 2) The font water should be emptied and allowed to dry between baptisms.

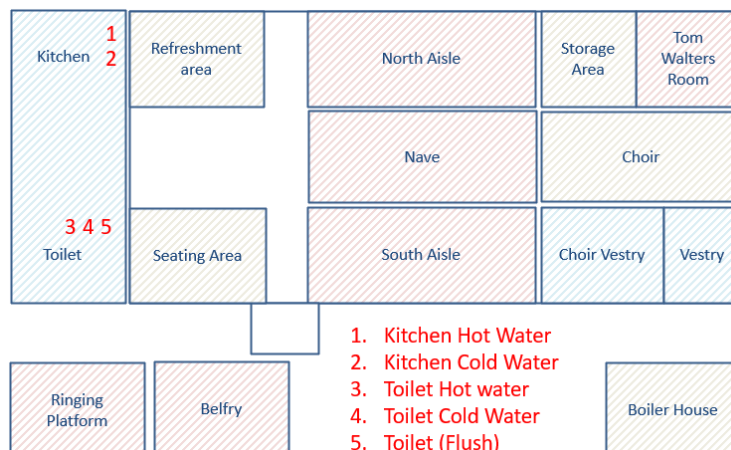
The testing of the hot and cold tap water temperatures will be carried out every 6 months. The results of water temperature testing are recorded on church document H&S\_Doc\_003F-AREA Risk Assessment Form.

### Forms

None

### Diagrams

Diagram 1. Water systems likely to give 'mist'



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### Appendices

#### Appendix 1. Legionella Risk Assessment

##### **The Church Water Systems**

Cold water enters the property and directly feeds two cold water taps and one toilet. There is no cold-water tank.

Hot water electric water heaters are fitted under the sink in the kitchen and above the sink in the toilet.

There are no pipes where water could stagnate. Pipe runs inside the church from outside are very short and underground. It is unlikely to be in the range 20-45°C.

##### **Potential Sources of Risk**

There are no areas where water could stagnate. All pipework is frequently used (twice a week).

Hot water systems are set to 60 degrees. Cold water runs at under 20 degrees in the kitchen and toilet after 3 minutes when the outside air temperature is 30 degrees

There are only two sinks in church and one flushable toilet.

##### **The Likelihood of Exposure**

Risk of exposure to Legionella, are mainly the congregation and visitors using the toilet. Only a few people use the kitchen. The kitchen is only used one or twice a week. Not everybody uses the toilet on every church visit, so the likelihood of exposure is, say, 5 minutes every month (estimate) for the congregation. Far less for visitors.

The church does have some vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly, that may have weakened immune systems.

##### **Evaluate the Risks**

Based on the above findings, the overall level of risk is very low

##### **Control Measures**

- 1) All water heating stems will be run at 60 degrees once every month.
- 2) All cold-water taps will be run for 3 minute once a month.
- 3) The toilet will be flushed 3 times consecutively once a month (with the toilet seat down).

Control measures may include:

A log will be kept.

**Note 1:** Water is used in the font for baptism. There is no water mist in this activity.

**Note 2:** Water is used in the church heating system (radiators). This is a sealed system to which the congregation and visitors do not have access.

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