




Notification of Legionella detections



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Notification of Legionella detections

> The **What** **When** **Why** and **How**

 **NOTIFICATION OF LEGIONELLA DETECTION IN A WATER SAMPLE**

In accordance with Regulation 17 of the South Australian Public Health (Legionella) Regulations 2013, system owners must notify the relevant authority within 24 hours of receiving a report indicating the presence of Legionella at 10 cfu/ml or greater in a water sample from a warm water system, or at 1000 cfu/ml or greater in a water sample from a cooling water system (exemption for 2500+ maximum capacity cooling).

PLEASE USE THIS FORM WHEN REPORTING THE DETECTION OF LEGIONELLA IN WATER SAMPLED FROM A COOLING WATER SYSTEM OR WARM WATER SYSTEM TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY

PART 1: DETAILS OF THE PERSON REPORTING THE RESULTS

Name	
Business name	
Contact telephone	
Email address	
Date and time	

PART 2: LOCATION OF AND OWNER OF SYSTEM TO WHICH THIS NOTIFICATION RELATES

Business trading name	
System owner	
Street address	Contact telephone
Suburb	Postcode

PART 3: SYSTEM DETAILS

System type	
System name / identification info	

PART 4: HEALTHCARE INFORMATION

Is the premises a hospital, a residential aged care facility or a residential facility for persons requiring assistance due to physical or mental disability or injury?	Yes / No
If yes, is it private or government owned/operated?	
Familiar region	

PART 5: NOTIFICATION CHRONOLOGY

The laboratory report was received by (name/position)	
Date	Time
The system owner was notified by (name/position)	
Date	Time

PART 6: SAMPLING DETAILS AND RESULTS

Enter sample details below up to a maximum of five sample results collected from the same system on the same date (per notification form [Please attach copies of laboratory reports if available.](#))

Sample date	Sample type*	Sample source	Results - cfu/ml Legionella		
			UPS	UPS-04	SPH001

*UPS: Universal; SPH001: Specialist; UPS-04: Independent member and distributor; See SA Health notification in other brands table.

Version 2.1, 4 Feb 2015



Scroll to Forms – Notification of Legionella detection in a water sample form

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Notification of Legionella detections

What?

- Legionella detection in water testing results
- Regulated systems

When?

- Cooling water system $\geq 1,000$ cfu/ml
- Warm water system ≥ 10 cfu/ml
- Notification from owner to the relevant authority within 24 hours.
- Notification from relevant authority to SA Health within 24 hours.

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Notification of Legionella detections

Why?

- > Notification assists with being able to undertake an appropriate response to a detection of legionella.
 - Disease investigation
 - Regulation
 - Section 17—Responses to detection of Legionella
 - Documentation
 - Communication
 - Data and analysis

PART 7: DECONTAMINATION AND RETESTING			
Decontamination status (undertaken or pending)			
Decontamination date / time (conducted or proposed)	Date	Time	
Is/was the system shut down or isolated pending decontamination?		Yes / No	
Note: systems must be immediately shut down (pending decontamination) or decontaminated (in accordance with a prescribed decontamination procedure or a decontamination procedure approved by the Minister) upon the receipt of a notifiable Legionella detection result (expiation fee \$315 – maximum penalty \$5000).			
Method of decontamination			
Has a retest date been determined?	Yes / No	Retest date:	
Note: retesting should occur 3-7 days after the system decontamination is completed. Please ensure any notifiable retest results are reported promptly to the relevant authority.			

Why do we notify?

Essentially, notification assists with being able to undertake an appropriate response to a detection of legionella.

1. Disease investigation

Notifications may provide important information in a legionella disease or case investigation.

2. Regulation

- Section 17 part 1 and 2 of the South Australian Public Health (Legionella) Regulations 2013 refers to Responses to detection of Legionella.
- Section 17 Part 1(b) and part 2(b) requires the notification report be submitted to the relevant authority within 24 hours of receiving the water sample results report (Maximum penalty: \$5 000 Expiation fee: \$315).

- Section 17 part (3) requires the relevant authority to forward the details of the notification report to SA Health within 24 hours (of it being received).
- The Relevant Authority is the Local Public Health Authority.
- Even if it is an SA Health site (like a public hospital), it's the LPHA responsibility to report the notification (and review/scrutinise the notification).

3. Documentation:

- (Refer to inserted table) It's a chain of evidence - Timely record of what happened and when, and what will happen next.
- The form provides an indication that an appropriate response as required by schedule 4 of the Guidelines has been undertaken.

4. Communication Tool:

- The notification can be used as a base or springboard from which to scrutinise that an appropriate public health protection response has been carried out.
- For example, once you receive a notification it might be a good idea to make further contact to see if the Schedule 4 Control Strategies in the Guidelines has been undertaken and maybe also discuss further steps including consideration for an in-depth risk assessment of the system.

5. Data and analysis:

- Notification information feeds into the state-wide data system - the Legionella Detection Notification Application (LDNA) – to assist with disease investigations and produce information for analysis.
- We saw some of that data previously in the stats summary.

Notification of Legionella detections

> How?

- Form - Notification of Legionella Detection in a Water Sample.
 - Email to legionella@sa.gov.au



Scroll to Forms – Notification of Legionella detection in a water sample form

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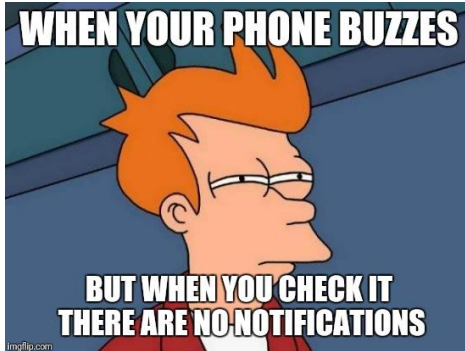
How do we notify?

Basically, what happens is:

1. The owner (or responsible person) completes parts 1-7 of the notification form and then provides the form to the relevant authority.
2. The relevant authority then reviews the received form and completes part 1 and 2 of the second section.
3. The relevant authority then submits the form via the SA Health legionella email (with laboratory results).

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Notification of Legionella detections



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There are some common issues or challenges with the notification process. I will quickly mention some of the common ones but there are others as well:

- **1. System owner or responsible person notifies SA Health (and bypasses the relevant authority):**
 - We have seen this with SA Health public hospitals – If it does happen, we will instruct the notifier of the proper process (that is via the LPHA).
 - If haven't already it might be worthwhile having the conversation about the notification process with registered owners before a detection happens (I used to do this when undertook a routine inspection – maybe it worked).

Notification of Legionella detections

PART 5: NOTIFICATION CHRONOLOGY

The laboratory report was received by (name/position)			
Date		Time	
The system owner was notified by (name/position)			
Date		Time	

PART 6: SAMPLE DETAILS AND RESULTS

Enter sample details below - up to a maximum of five sample results (collected from the same system on the same date) per notification form. **Please attach copies of laboratory reports if available.**

Sample date	Sample type*	Sample source	Results - cfu/mL Legionella		
			LP1	LP2-14	L Species

*Routine sample, council inspection, independent inspection, post decontamination test, disease investigation or other (provide details).

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- **2. (Part 5) Notification chronology:**
 - (refer to first table) Important to check this as the chronology forms an important part of the documentation when considering the immediate response.
 - It is also important to make sure that the system owner is notified.
- **3. The person reporting the results may not have completed notification forms correctly** (could be any part of the form - **part 6 shown on the screen is a common one**):
 - Include copies of laboratory reports.
 - Sample type (*Routine sample, council inspection, independent inspection, post contamination test, disease investigation or other)
 - The correct name of the system or identification information is also important (especially over time as businesses change). Detailing

the previous name of the system in the notification is helpful and will help accurately track a system over time.

- Overall, its important to remember that all notifications should be thoroughly reviewed/scrutinised upon receipt.



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