



COVID-19 SAFETY NOTICE TO CLUBS CONSIDERATIONS FOR REOPENING FACILITIES AFTER PROLONGED INACTIVITY



There are a number of things for clubs to consider when they reopen their facilities and buildings, especially after a long period of closure. These will include but are not limited to:

Legionnaires' Disease:

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia. People may become infected when they breathe in tiny water droplets (aerosols) or droplet nuclei (particles left after the water has evaporated) contaminated with elevated concentrations of Legionella bacteria. ¹

Managing against the risk of legionnaires disease which can occur on surfaces where there is low water flow or water is allowed to stagnate. Low or no water flow and stagnation can occur during temporary water system closures.

For a full resource on Legionnaires' Disease, please refer to the HSA document [Control of Legionella Bacteria During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Life Safety Systems:

Life Safety Systems in building should be assessed. These systems are usually checked routinely however after long periods of closure they may need maintenance checks and servicing. This would include:

- Fire detection and Alarm systems.
- Smoke detectors.
- Emergency and exit lighting.
- Pull stations.
- Smoke detectors.
- Emergency and standby power systems.
- Sprinklers.
- AED - Automated External Defibrillator.

Gas:

If there is gas for cooking at the venue this may need to be reconnected to serviced by a specialised contractor.

Rodents:

Clubs should have their pest control contractor visit the premises to check traps and baits. A long period of closure may have looked inviting to rodents and pests.

General Risk Assessment

Clubs are advised to carry out a general risk assessment of the premises as there may be additional hazards that have gone unnoticed due to closure or reduced use. Clubs may wish to use the risk assessment template issued to clubs for COVID-19 Safety Planning for this purpose.

The IRFU would like to wish clubs a safe and successful 2021/22 season.

¹ Source: [Control of Legionella Bacteria During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

