Legionella bacteria are transmitted via inhalation of aerosolized water. Systems that have stagnant water, corrosion, biofilm, or sediment and water temperatures between 20°C and 50°C provide a suitable environment for the growth of Legionella.

Common sources include cooling towers, domestic hot-water systems, fountains, and similar disseminators that tap into a public water supply. Natural sources of Legionella include freshwater ponds and creeks. Person-to-person transmission of Legionella has not been demonstrated.

Note: We are CALA accredited and CDC Elite certified for Legionella analysis using ISO11731 methodology.

Sampling and Analysis

- Containers are available upon request. We will ship you 1L poly bottles that are autoclaved (sterile) and contain 10% sodium thiosulphate as a neutralizing agent for treated water. No neutralizing agent is required for non-treated water.
- The recommended hold time is 48 hours from sample collection; however, samples may be processed up to 5 days from collection.
- If possible, please deliver to laboratory early in the week.
- Samples are to be kept cool but not frozen (less than 10°C).
- Reporting time is up to 14 days from receipt. Your report will include speciation for Legionella pneumophila to serogroup, a comment on other Legionella species if present, and quantitative results if requested (presence/absence testing is also available). Any Legionella recovered will be indicated on the final report, regardless of detection limits.

Confirmation is required for all presumptive positive growth. This requires up to 5 additional days, with additional cost.