

## **ICNC March 26, 2026 Webinar**

### **Summary**

#### **Water Management Panel Setup Meeting**

The meeting focused on setting up and testing interactive features for an upcoming panel discussion about water management in Connecticut. Abby and ICNCCT worked together to configure poll questions in the system, with ICNCCT making necessary participants co-hosts including Kelly for slide sharing. The team tested the poll functionality and confirmed all presenters could unmute themselves, with Kelly successfully sharing slides. The conversation ended with 96 participants joined and ICNCCT noting the strong attendance from Connecticut representatives and ICNC members.

#### **Legionella Awareness and Control Measures**

The meeting focused on Legionella awareness and control measures, with Chris Hennigan providing an overview of Legionella bacteria, its sources, and surveillance trends in Connecticut. He explained that Legionella causes Legionnaire's disease, Pontiac fever, and extrapulmonary legionellosis, with symptoms including cough, fever, and shortness of breath. Chris presented data showing an increase in reported cases since the early 2000s, with 196 reports in 2025, and noted that most cases occur in summer and fall due to warmer temperatures. The session included knowledge checks where attendees answered questions about Legionella case definitions and incubation periods, with Chris confirming the correct answers during the discussion.

#### **Legionella Risk Factors and Control**

Amanda presented on Legionella risk factors, focusing on how built environments and water systems create conditions favorable for Legionella growth. She explained key risk factors including warm temperatures, stagnation, low disinfectant levels, and biofilm development, as well as specific locations where Legionella can grow such as storage tanks and point-of-use devices. Amanda outlined CDC recommendations for environmental assessments using the LEAF form and described the process for implementing control measures and follow-up sampling after an outbreak, including a typical sampling sequence of bi-weekly sampling for three months followed by monthly sampling for another three months.

#### **Legionella Control and WICRA Review**

Abby and Amanda reviewed poll results on Legionella exposure sources and control measures, with participants showing high agreement on key answers including showers as the main exposure source and the installation of point-of-use filters. Abby then explained the Water Infection Control Risk Assessment (WICRA) tool, describing it as a CDC-recommended annual assessment for water management plans that should involve infection preventionists, facilities managers, and other key staff. The discussion included details on completing the WICRA form and implementing mitigation strategies, with Abby mentioning that splash guards and closing bathroom doors are effective risk reduction measures. The session concluded with knowledge check questions on WICRA purposes.

and requirements, with most participants answering correctly, before transitioning to Steve from FLIS who was scheduled to discuss regulations but experienced technical difficulties.

### **Water Management in Healthcare Facilities**

Steve presented on water management plans and regulatory requirements for healthcare facilities to reduce Legionella risk. He explained that CMS issued requirements in 2017 for long-term care facilities, hospitals, and critical access hospitals to develop policies and procedures to prevent Legionnaire's disease. The presentation emphasized the importance of forming a dedicated team, including building maintenance and infectious control personnel, to conduct risk assessments, implement mitigation strategies, and review the water management plan regularly. Steve stressed that this is an ongoing collaborative effort rather than a one-time task.

### **Legionella Consent Order Process**

Samantha from DPH's legal office explained the consent order process for adding water treatment systems to facilities in response to Legionella issues. She outlined that consent orders help facilities transition from regular nursing home regulations to public water system regulations, which involves negotiation between DPH and the facility. The process begins when a facility decides to install permanent water treatment systems, followed by information requests and drafting of the consent order with input from various DPH experts. The presentation concluded with a question about effective testing for Legionella serotypes beyond type 1, though the specific answer was not provided in the transcript.

### **Legionella Detection and Reporting Protocols**

The group discussed Legionella detection and reporting requirements. Chris explained that while Legionella pneumophila is most commonly associated with human infections, any Legionella species detection during active investigations warrants continued mitigation efforts. Steve clarified that reporting to FLIS is only required when there is a positive human case, though it's recommended to notify authorities about positive samples. The discussion also covered construction protocols, with Amanda recommending that ICRA (Infection Control Risk Assessment) be conducted pre-construction while WICRA (Water-specific ICRA) should be performed post-construction to assess new water sources and potential dead legs created during construction.

### **Legionella Investigation Procedures Discussion**

The meeting focused on discussing Legionella investigation procedures and water management plans. Amanda clarified that investigations can be considered complete when Legionella is not detected, as lab reports show "non-detect" rather than zero. Steve provided guidance on creating water flow diagrams for infection control surveys, explaining that templates are available in CDC and ASHRAE toolkits which can be filled out to identify potential issues in water systems. The conversation ended with positive feedback from participants about the presentation.