

Waterborne Pathogen Disinfection and Remediation in Healthcare Facilities

Abstract: Water Management Programs (WMP) are necessary to minimize the risk of *Legionella* bacteria in building water systems, and to satisfy The Joint Commission's EC.02.05.02 Water Management Program Standard, ASHRAE Standard 188-2021 and the CMS QSO-17-30 Memorandum. What if, through your WMP's risk assessment, you identify the need for interventions due to amplification of *Legionella* bacteria? What options does a healthcare facility have if *Legionella* bacteria validation illustrates your facility is colonized with these pathogenic bacteria? Is your Water Management Program Team prepared to make swift decisions if a Legionnaires' disease case is associated with your facility? Have you considered the "other" waterborne pathogens and modes of transmission specifically named by CMS?

This presentation will answer these questions while providing attendees with an overview of disinfection and remediation strategies to address *Legionella* and other waterborne pathogens within healthcare facilities' building water systems. Understanding both short- and long-term interventions are a critical part of informed decision making. Attendees will learn practical skills and develop an understanding of the benefits, challenges, and limitations of applying thermal, physical, and chemical interventions used to prevent *Legionella* and other waterborne pathogen amplification. We will present a literature review to provide evidence-based data demonstrating efficacy to support the use of each intervention alone or as part of a bundled solution within a facility.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Understand different interventions used to mitigate *Legionella* and other waterborne pathogen challenges
- 2) Evaluate benefits, challenges and limitations to short-term and long-term disinfection and remediation strategies
- 3) Discuss peer reviewed publications to support evidence-based performance claims
- 4) Understand next steps in the evaluation and the implementation of interventions when Water Management Program validation (environmental *Legionella* sampling) identifies risks to patients, visitors, and staff.