

Preventing Legionella During Hospital Renovation and Water System Work

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Renovation grows Legionella by stagnating water, creating dead legs, opening pipework, and causing pressure events. Prevention runs with the construction schedule: flush or drain out-of-service areas, remove dead legs at the main, disinfect opened or new sections at commissioning, verify before patient use.

WATCH FOR

- Shutdowns and out-of-service wings: standing water at growth temperatures.
- Dead legs from capped branches - remove at the main.
- Pressure events scouring biofilm into the water column.

DO

- Water management team reviews every water touch before work starts.
- Flush on a documented rhythm or drain and isolate.
- Disinfect, flush to stable temps/residuals, sample before return to service.

FIELD QUESTION

Who owns Legionella prevention during a renovation?

The water management program owns risk and control limits; construction executes the steps; infection prevention owns the patient-risk call for high-risk units.

Renovation is when the water program earns its keep.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.

healthcarefacilityhub.org/prevent-legionella-during-hospital-renovation/

Free field sheet from Healthcare Facility Hub. The live page is the current version - this sheet was generated October 2026. Scan the code to open the full article.

