**Water Management Program Policy**

**Water Management Program**

Policy

It is the policy of this facility to establish and implement a water management program to minimize the risk of *Legionella* and other opportunistic pathogens in building water systems that are based on nationally accepted standards that includes an assessment to identify where Legionella and other opportunistic waterborne pathogens are able to grow and spread, measures instituted to prevent growth of opportunistic waterborne pathogens and system to monitor the program.

**Definition**

“***Legionellosis***” refers to two clinically and epidemiologically distinct illnesses: *Legionnaires*’ disease, which is typically characterized by fever, myalgia, cough, and clinical or radiographic pneumonia; and Pontiac fever, a milder illness without pneumonia (e.g., fever and muscle aches). *Legionellosis* is caused by *Legionella* bacteria.”1

**NOTE**: Facilities can utilize the following resources to develop and implement a water management program in order to develop facility specific procedures:

* “The ASHRAE Standard 188- Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems” <https://www.ashrae.org>;
* The CDC toolkit to facilitate implementation of the ASHRAE Standard titled “Developing a Water Management Program to Reduce Legionella Growth & Spread in Buildings: A Practical Guide to Implementing Industry Standards” https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html; and
* The EPA's “Technologies for Legionella Control in Premise Plumbing Systems: Scientific Literature Review” is available at https://www.epa.gov/ground-waterand-drinking-water/technologies-legionella-control-premise-plumbing-systems.”1

**Reference**

1Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (Rev. 173, 11-22-17) Advance Copy, 2022: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/appendix-pp-guidance-surveyor-long-term-care-facilities.pdf>