



Governor Gavin Newsom

Dear Mission Valley State Building Tenants,

Maintaining the health and safety of our building occupants is critically important to DGS' Facilities Management Division (FMD). We have taken numerous steps to address Legionella concerns at the San Diego Mission Valley (SDMV) Building over the last few months, including ongoing testing, water flushing, chemical remediations, installation of various filters, managing water fountain temperatures, replacing sink fixtures, and will continue to do so as we further remediate the Legionella presence. We also recognize that communication is key to a better understanding of this bacteria and will share structured updates regarding our various remediation efforts.

In keeping with our commitment to increased communication, we would like to share that recent testing results from FACS (Forensic Analytical Consulting Services) indicated a Legionella presence in some water fountain and shower head fixtures. According to the guidance of our Senior Industrial Hygienist (Bryan Landis), and in line with the American Industrial Hygiene Association's recommended action levels, we have implemented measures to mitigate the risk of Legionella transmission. Specifically, we initiated a comprehensive maintenance plan to close all water fountains at the Mission Valley site, which allowed us to conduct routine maintenance, thorough cleaning, and inspections/temperature adjustments.

During this process, we also installed six new water fountains and "bubblers" on the second and third floors. These replacements expedited the cleaning and disinfection of the remaining water fountains, which were returned to service by June 15. Conversely, recent Legionella shower head test results (which yielded low numbers) were gathered without faucet filters, and as such, we were directed to reinstall the filters (after cleaning the shower heads) to ensure tight protections against any potential Legionella exposure. We were also advised that there was no need to replace the shower heads given the above advisements. We will, of course, continue flushing all these fixtures with chlorinated water and will conduct multiple site tests throughout the building in accordance with oncoming water management plan recommendations.

In addition to the routine flushing and maintenance recommended by the American Industrial Hygiene Association for fountains with similar Legionella testing results, we have and will continue to ensure all chilled water fountain fixtures are maintained at or below 68 degrees Fahrenheit, which further minimizes the risk of Legionella growth.

The importance of transparent and consistent communication cannot be overemphasized under current circumstances. As such, we have designated a single voice of communication from our executive team that will be shared with SDMV building tenant executives, who are asked to disseminate the information to staff. It is our hope that this approach will help ensure information reaches you and staff accurately and promptly.

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*FMD Mission: "Delivering professional building management services through value offered customer care and a strong commitment to excellence – for all of California."*

*FMD Goals: ~ 1. Be outstanding stewards for our state **ASSETS** ~ 2. Take care of our **PEOPLE** ~ 3. Provide great **CUSTOMER SERVICE***

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the recent water fountain maintenance, Legionella testing, or any other related matters, please do not hesitate to reach out to our designated point of contact, Richard Lilley, Office Building Manager, at [richard.lilley@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:richard.lilley@dgs.ca.gov) or 619-688-0206.

We are also providing sample language below to be shared with your staff:

*“Test results collected on June 6, 2023 by FACS (Forensic Analytical Consulting Services) indicated a low Legionella presence in some water fountain and shower head fixtures at the San Diego Mission Valley Building. According to the guidance of DGS’ Facilities Management Division (FMD) Senior Industrial Hygienist, and in accordance with the American Industrial Hygiene Association, FMD has implemented measures to mitigate the risk of Legionella transmissions. Specifically, they initiated a comprehensive maintenance plan which involved closing all water fountains, allowing them to conduct routine maintenance, thorough cleaning, and inspections/temperature adjustments. During this process, FMD was also able to install six new water fountain bowls and “bubblers” on the second and third floors. These replacements expedited the cleaning and disinfection of the remaining water fountains, which were returned to service by June 15.*

*The low Legionella test results collected from the shower heads were gathered without faucet filters, and as such, FMD was advised that they could reinstall the filters (after cleaning the shower heads) to ensure tight protections against any potential Legionella exposure. They were also advised that there was no need to replace the shower heads given the above recommendations. Ongoing efforts will, of course, require flushing these fixtures with chlorinated water and multiple site tests in accordance with oncoming water management plan recommendations. In addition to the flushing and maintenance recommended by the American Industrial Hygiene Association for fountains with similar Legionella test results, FMD will continue to ensure all chilled water fountain fixtures are maintained at or below 68 degrees Fahrenheit. This will further minimize the risk of Legionella growth.”*

We are dedicated to continuing healthy dialogue on this important topic and appreciate your help disseminating the information DGS and CDPH provide to you, educating staff and acting as our partner to ensure consistent messaging throughout this challenging process.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**Linda A. Coxen**  
Assistant Branch Chief  
Mobile 818.579.5411