

July 4, 2023

To the CAOs of the municipalities within the County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka:

**Re: Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis**

Last fall, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) concluded a large *Legionella* outbreak investigation in a local community. Legionellosis can result in mild to severe respiratory illness caused by *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria. These respiratory infections occur through inhalation of aerosolized water droplets contaminated with *Legionella* bacteria.

Cooling towers are a known significant contributor to *Legionella* exposures. Aerosolized *Legionella* bacteria from cooling towers can place those living and working in surrounding areas at risk. However, the risk of *Legionella* outbreaks can be minimized by regular maintenance, cleaning, disinfection, and testing of cooling towers in accordance with best practices.

In addition to the letter provided to you on November 30, 2022, I am requesting that the attached letter be shared with local building owners in your municipality that may utilize cooling towers as a cooling system. Given that legionella presents an ongoing risk in cooling towers in our communities, I intend to periodically provide advisory notices in the future through you to known towers in your municipality.

For additional information on [Legionellosis](#) and [cooling tower maintenance](#) please visit the SMDHU website.

If you have questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Rebellato, Vice-President of the Environmental Health Department at [Steven.Rebellato@smdhu.org](mailto:Steven.Rebellato@smdhu.org).

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

Att. (1)

<b>□ Barrie:</b> 15 Sperling Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6K9 705-721-7520 FAX: 705-721-1495	<b>□ Collingwood:</b> 280 Pretty River Pkwy. Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J5 705-445-0804 FAX: 705-445-6498	<b>□ Cookstown:</b> 2-25 King Street S. Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0 705-458-1103 FAX: 705-458-0105	<b>□ Gravenhurst:</b> 2-5 Pineridge Gate Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3 705-684-9090 FAX: 705-684-9887	<b>□ Huntsville:</b> 34 Chaffey St. Huntsville, ON P1H 1K1 705-789-8813 FAX: 705-789-7245	<b>□ Midland:</b> A-925 Hugel Ave. Midland, ON L4R 1X8 705-526-9324 FAX: 705-526-1513	<b>□ Orillia:</b> 120-169 Front St. S. Orillia, ON L3V 4S8 705-325-9565 FAX: 705-325-2091
---	--	---	--	--	--	--