

# LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE MANUAL

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Policy # <b>403</b>	
Effective Date: 8/18/2020	

Subject: **Managing Pathogenic Biological Agents in Water Systems**

Original Issue Date: 1/18/08  
Supersedes: 11/26/12

Departments Consulted:  
Facilities Management

Reviewed & Approved by:  
Facilities Management Administration

Approved by:  
  
Director,  
Facilities Management

## PURPOSE

To identify and implement processes to minimize pathogenic biological agents in cooling towers, domestic hot/cold water systems, and other aerosolizing water systems.

## POLICY

It is the policy of LAC+USC Healthcare Network to maintain and operate all equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and safe manner. Equipment that operates with water that can be aerosolized (e. g., cooling towers, faucets, showers, fountains, pools, spas) may become contaminated with potentially infectious biological agents even though the equipment is operated within the manufacturer's guidelines. Regular maintenance and cleaning of the equipment and proper treatment of the water is performed to ensure that the risks of hazards are minimized to the staff, patients and visitors of LAC+USC Healthcare Network.

## PROCEDURE

### **A. Treatment and General Cleaning**

Cooling towers, water display fountains, spas, pools, and other open water systems that can generate aerosols have a maintenance program that includes routine cleaning of the water reservoir and piping systems. The maintenance is conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and appropriate cleaning instructions. When necessary, make up water should be provided from the normal water service system. Open-water systems that have been out of service for an extended period of time are thoroughly cleaned before being returned to service.

Systems that generate or utilize aerosolized potable tap water (showers, drinking fountains, ice machines, tap water faucets) are properly cleaned and maintained to control the contamination from potentially infectious biological agents. Water storage tanks (hot water systems, reserve storage tanks) that are not continually utilized are routinely cleaned and decontamination.

During maintenance and cleaning procedures, the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) is worn to prevent exposure to potentially infectious biological agents, such as Legionella, Mycobacterium, and Pseudomonas.

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## **B. Treatment**

The water treatment program includes the routine application of the appropriate biocide treatment agents designed to eliminate and control biological agents and other contaminants that can accumulate from exposure to the open atmosphere. During the application of treatment and cleaning agents, the appropriate PPE's are worn.

## **C. Documentation**

Routine maintenance and treatment procedures of cooling towers and other open water systems are recorded. Date of service, service and treatment provided and personal conducting the service are recorded. Maintenance and cleaning of open water or potable water systems that have been out of service for an extended period to time are also documented.

## **D. Staff Training**

Staff members responsible for the water treatment program are trained during orientation and receive appropriate training thereafter regarding proper cleaning and maintenance procedures, and the safe handling and proper application of water treatment and cleaning chemicals. All guidelines for handling hazardous materials and the recommendations for proper use of PPE are presented.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

Facilities Management

## **PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION**

Facilities Management Procedure Manual

## **REFERENCES**

## **REVIEW-REVISION DATES**

11/26/12

5/29/13

3/30/16

3/5/19