

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 10/4/2021 4:06:24 PM
Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Innovation Award for Legionella Prevention (October 5, 2021)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin on October 5, 2021 regarding an innovation award the City's water systems operating permits team received for their work in *Legionella* Prevention.

Over the past year, six cases of high *Legionella* concentrations were identified in Vancouver building systems and immediately addressed through this program with no impact on the public. Recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network as a leader in *Legionella* prevention, the City has been contacted by jurisdictions across North America for guidance on responding to and preventing outbreaks. The award was presented jointly to our colleagues at Vancouver Coastal Health.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

///

City of Vancouver
Information Bulletin
October 5, 2021

City's Legionella prevention program recognized for innovation

The City of Vancouver in conjunction with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has received the 2021 Innovation Award for *Legionella* prevention from the [Environmental Operators Certification Program](#) (EOCP). The EOCP is responsible for certifying the thousands of water and wastewater operators across BC and the Yukon.

Over the last year in Vancouver, half a dozen instances of high *Legionella* concentrations in building mechanical systems were detected and immediately remediated. In each instance VCH was notified and used this information to verify they were not linked to any lab-confirmed illness.

The City's [Water System Operating Permit Program](#) helps protect the public from waterborne health risks like *Legionella*. With a focus on compliance with safety standards and preventative maintenance and monitoring, these operating permits help health authorities and City staff rapidly identify and respond to incidents of

concern. Since the program's launch, it has gained much support from both building owners and the tourism industry with more than 1,100 systems registered.

Recognized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network as a leader in *Legionella* prevention, the City has been contacted by jurisdictions across North America for guidance on responding to and preventing outbreaks.

Equipment owners are required to complete regular water quality testing and reporting, and obtain a water systems operating permit for the following systems:

- Cooling Towers
- Decorative water features
- Rainwater harvesting and other alternative water systems
- Building water treatment systems

For more information, visit vancouver.ca/operating-permit.

- 30 -

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications

604-871-6336

media@vancouver.ca