The critical actions taken to slow and prevent the spread of COVID-19 worldwide, such as physical distancing and temporary shutdowns of businesses, have resulted in an unprecedented decline in the utilization of water in commercial, education, hospitality and manufacturing facilities. While we manage the risks from COVID-19, it is critical that we also control the physical, microbiological and chemical risks associated with low- or non-operating building water systems.

Which building types are most likely at risk?

![Commercial](image1.png)  ![Educational/Cultural](image2.png)  ![Hospitality](image3.png)  ![Manufacturing](image4.png)  ![Medical](image5.png)

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR RISK PREVENTION

There are several practical steps that can be taken to help prevent risks from amplifying in your building:

1. Keep water flowing to reduce water age
2. Strategically monitor disinfectant residuals
3. Maintain routine treatment of cooling towers and other aerosol-generating water systems
4. Control water temperature ranges to reduce amplification of *Legionella* and other waterborne pathogens
5. Put in place water quality monitoring strategies (disinfectant residual, pH, temperature, microbiological analysis)
6. Keep your records updated and defensible (verification and validation)
7. Incorporate water safety into your business continuity plans. Prior to returning to normal service, a site-specific plan for evaluating and documenting the safety of water systems must be prepared.

Acting now will help control amplification of risks during COVID-19 operations and expedite your building returning to normal operations knowing waterborne disease and lead exposure risks have been properly managed.

For more information about how NSF’s building water health experts can help you minimize the risks associated with all water systems in your buildings or facilities during these uncertain times, email us at buildingwaterhealth@nsf.org.