

**Case Study:**

Legionella  
Outbreak

**Industry:**

Entertainment/  
Spectator Sports

**Employee Count:**

210

## Large Sporting Arena – Legionella Outbreak

### **The Customer**

A large multi-purpose sporting venue located in the heart of the Midwest, faced serious legal claims due to the discovery of Legionella, and needed a quick and efficient full remediation of their water system.

A highly regarded water treatment specialist recommended IWC Innovations as the best firm for the enormous undertaking.

### **The Facility**

The arena, a prominent multi-purpose venue is visited by thousands of fans each year. The venue is home to consistent weekly sporting events and nearly 100 non-sporting events each year

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### **The Problem**

Two employees came down ill and sought medical attention, while working at the arena. It was brought to the communities' attention that these employees, who both contracted Legionnaires' Disease, were exposed to Legionella bacteria at the arena.

## **Analysis**

When IWC was contacted, the arena's water systems had already been widely tested and confirmed positive for *Legionella pneumophila*. A full-scale *Legionella* sanitization was necessary to properly eradicate the waterborne disease from the facility. Due to the sheer size and unique set up of the arena, this challenging undertaking was transferred to IWC Innovations from the original water management consultants who were brought on to assess the job.

IWC completed the sanitization by flushing both the cold and hot water holding tanks and associated equipment and then administering our HydroTreat remediation process. The patented *Legionella* remediation solution allowed the building to be fully sanitized in 12 hours. For the size of the facility, the speed at which the remediation was completed shattered industry standards.

While on-site and during operations, IWC was able to develop a large comprehensive report of the arena outlining areas of concern. All large facilities have complex water systems which require consistent management. In addition to the size of this facility, many aspects of the arena made the water systems an elevated environment for *Legionella* growth. IWC noted the most prominent issue the arena faced was severe stagnation found throughout several areas of the building. Clogged aerators were discovered due to calcium buildup in the water supply. The utilization of automated faucets in many of the restrooms and locker rooms hindered the regular water flow, causing stagnation to become extremely prevalent when not managed properly. In addition, some of these faucets were discovered with dead batteries. Because of this, the faucets had not been used in quite some time, heightening the amounts of stagnant water. These stagnant areas in the water system not only allow for *Legionella* growth, but also cause the area to lose all effectiveness of any utilized disinfectant.

## **The Solution**

IWC accepted this undertaking and successfully eradicated Legionella in the water systems of the arena in less than a week's time frame. This permitted little downtime and loss to business, leading to the multi-use building to quickly return to their routine schedules and events.

IWC Innovations developed a cohesive plan to eliminate all the existing problems found in the water system of the arena. After the successful sanitization, IWC continued to assist in adding water filtration systems throughout the facility. These additions, located in the showers for the athletes, the ice machines, drinking fountains, soda machines, throughout the facility will allow for another level of protection against any future water threats.

## **Conclusion**

The remediation done by IWC was successful in eradicating all traces of Legionella within the facility's water systems. The timeline of this endeavor ensured minimal damage to the arena's reputation and confirmed that no other staff members, athletes, performers, and fans would contract the disease. Only five days after IWC was initially contacted to assess the job, the IWC team was onsite and ready to begin a full-scale remediation. We take pride in our ability to work with client's timelines and quickly address, plan, and implement solutions for dangerous public health issues like Legionella outbreaks.

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IWC Innovations is here to help. Call us and speak with a water treatment specialist who will answer any questions you might have. 1-877-492-7526 Ext: 702

Or

Fill out [THIS](#) form online and someone will get back to you asap.