

# Water Management plans and pool safety - moving forward

Dr Susanne Surman-Lee

*Royal Society for Public Health representative on PWTAG Council, Director Leegionella Ltd*



Susanne is a State Registered Clinical Scientist (Public Health Microbiologist), Chartered Biologist and Director and Co-owner of Leegionella Ltd. with over 40 years' experience in clinical and public health microbiology.

She has been involved with the development of national and international guidelines including; the World Health Organisation publications Legionella and the Prevention of legionellosis and Water Safety in Buildings, the HSE publications, L8, HSG 274, HSG 282, HSG 179, the Department of Health's HTM 04-01, and many British standards for *Legionella* sampling and risk assessment and chair of the panel which produced BS 8680 for developing Water Safety Plans and is current chair of the BS 8580-2 Water Quality risk assessment for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and other waterborne pathogens. She was also chair of the ESCMID Study group for *Legionella* Infections (ESGLI) working group which produced the Technical Guidelines for the prevention, control and investigation of infections caused by Legionella and Guidance for managing building water systems, including in healthcare, in the time of COVID Susanne has been a long-standing member of PWTAG representing the Royal Society for Public Health and has contributed to PWTAG publications for swimming pools, hot tubs and hydrotherapy pools.

## **Presentation Abstract**

Covid-19 has brought many challenges to maintaining water quality in pools, associated equipment and associated building water systems and it is likely we are going to have to adapt, on an ongoing basis, to managing these challenges. The concept of Water Safety Plans (WSP), as advocated by WHO, to effectively manage all types of water systems with the built environment is becoming accepted as best practice and in 2020 BSI published BS 8680:2020 to aid the development and implementation of effective WSPs for all types of constructed water systems, including leisure complexes with pools, to ensure all relevant hazards, associated with water, which could result in a risk of harm to health are identified, and managed to minimise risk. Its scope covers all types of water systems from the concept stage of a new project through the design, specification, build and installation, commissioning stages to normal operation.

A key component of the WSP is the risk assessment stage, stagnation occurring in systems which have little or no use increases the risk of pathogens, , growing to harmful levels. All too often risk assessments do not adequately consider the risks from autochthonous microbial hazards such as Legionella and P. aeruginosa. To address this a new Standard “BS 8580 Risk assessments for P.aeruginosa and other waterborne pathogens” is being developed to assist with and improve public health risk assessments. The presentation will demonstrate how WSPs can help to manage the risks from waterborne infection, including during the current situation.