



Reply

Response to Comments on Whiley *Legionella* Risk Management and Control in Potable Water Systems: Argument for the Abolishment of Routine Testing. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2017, 14, 12

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Academic Editor: Paul B. Tchounwou

Received: 10 January 2017; Accepted: 11 January 2017; Published: 21 January 2017

I would like to thank Collins and Walker for their considered comments and for acknowledging that this is an area urgently requiring more research to improve *Legionella* control and management strategies [1].

I agree with Collins and Walker's conclusion that the optimum solution would be a water system management strategy that, using an improved *Legionella* detection method, combines risk assessment, control measures, and routine testing. However, this is currently not an option, as a *Legionella* detection method that adequately represents the public health risk has not yet been identified [2].

I also suggest that the 'zero-tolerance' approach to *Legionella* utilized in many UK hospitals is an example of false confidence in the culture detection results. It demonstrates how a negative detection result may cause managers to assume their system is '*Legionella*-free'. However, as discussed in the commentary, this is not guaranteed [2].

References

1. Collins, S.; Walker, J. Comments on whiley *Legionella* risk management and control in potable water systems: Argument for the abolishment of routine testing. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2017**, *14*. [[CrossRef](#)]
2. Whiley, H. *Legionella* risk management and control in potable water systems: Argument for the abolishment of routine testing. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2016**, *14*, 12. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]



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