**Flushing outlets on a potentially legionella contaminated water source**

As many outlets have not been flushed in recent weeks, it must be assumed that each system maybe contaminated with legionella. This would potentially be more serious, in terms of risk to the College population, as we will be returning during the time of a pandemic respiratory disease.

Simply turning taps or showers on can generate water aerosol which may be contaminated, and if inhaled, may lead to infection. Precautions must be taken to avoid generating anaerosol. A few ways of doing this are outlined below. In all cases the outlet must be turned on gently, and left at a relatively slow trickle, as this will help prevent aerosol generation. The outlets will need to be flushed for longer than usual, to account for the lower flow rate.

1. Attach a hose to the outlet, and make sure the end of the hose is directed to the side or base of the sink. This will minimise aerosol generation.
2. A bucket can be filled part way with water (if there is uncontaminated water available). Outlets can then be submerged below the water line and turned on, again using a hose if necessary. If the bucket can be placed into a sink, it can be allowed to slowly overflow. If this is not possible it will need to be filled many times to allow enough flushing.
3. A towel or cloth or plastic bag can be wrapped around the outlet and secured in place. If using this method, care must be taken that no aerosol is generated by dripping.

If you are unable to use any of these methods, please contact [e.hartrick@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:e.hartrick@imperial.ac.uk) to discuss.