



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

**2018 Annual Report Pursuant to Local Law 77 of 2015
Cooling Towers and Legionnaires' Disease**

This report is submitted pursuant to §3 of Local Law 2015 (LL77), which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to submit to the Mayor and City Council Speaker, the following information for the prior calendar year:

1. The number of new cooling tower registrations
2. The number of notifications of discontinued use (decommissioning) of a cooling tower
3. The number of annual certifications that a cooling tower was inspected, tested, cleaned and disinfected
4. The number of reports of tests for the presence of microbes that reveal levels that present a serious health threat received by the DOHMH
5. The number of cooling tower system inspections conducted
6. The number and types of any violations cited during such inspections
7. The number of cleanings, disinfections or other actions performed by or on behalf of the DOHMH
8. The number of persons diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease in the city in each of the previous 10 years

The information is on the next page.



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Reporting Information for Calendar Year 2018: January 1-December 31, 2018	Total #
1. New Cooling Tower Registrations	383 Cooling Towers (348 Cooling Tower Systems)
2. Decommission Notifications	333 Cooling Towers (264 Cooling Tower Systems)
3. Annual Certifications*	4,970 Cooling Towers
4. <i>Legionella</i> Results \geq 1,000 CFU/mL	134
5. Cooling Tower Inspections**	6,106 Cooling Towers (5,168 Cooling Tower Systems)
6. Violations Cited***	21,860
<i>Public Health Hazards Cited</i>	3,003
<i>Critical Violations Cited</i>	12,570
<i>General Violations Cited</i>	6,287
7. Cleanings/disinfections performed by or on behalf of the DOHMH	0
8. Persons diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease in each of the previous 10 years:	
2018	656
2017	435
2016	271
2015	439
2014	225
2013	301
2012	177
2011	216
2010	165
2009	231

*~1,300 registered cooling towers failed to submit their 2018 annual certification but are nonetheless inspected by the Health Department.

**For a limited number of cooling tower systems, more than one inspection was conducted in 2018 for compliance purposes.

***During inspections, cooling tower systems are evaluated for 30 possible violations. All violations observed are cited and summonses are issued for public health hazard (PHH) and critical violations. The 30 violations are divided into three categories:

- *Public Health Hazard Violation* - a condition that demonstrates a lack of basic cooling tower system monitoring and management and is the most serious category. The violations include missing a Maintenance Program and Plan, failure to collect *Legionella* monitoring samples, and failure to perform corrective action following a high *Legionella* sample result in accordance with the regulations. There are 3 possible PHH violations.
- *Critical violation* - a condition that demonstrates a lack of process control associated with treatment, cleaning, disinfection and management of the cooling tower system. There are 14 possible critical violations.
- *General violation* - a condition that demonstrates a lack of recordkeeping, administrative control or non-critical process control. There are 13 possible general violations.