



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD  
*Commissioner*

## **Annual Report for Cooling Towers and Legionnaires' Disease for Reporting Year 2023**

This report is submitted pursuant to New York City Administrative Code §17-194.1(l), which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to submit the information enumerated below to the Mayor and City Council Speaker by May 15, 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

As of December 31, 2023, a total of 6,062 cooling towers were registered with the Department of Buildings, representing 5,046 cooling tower systems in 4,036 buildings across all five boroughs. More detailed information is described on the following page.



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Reporting Information for Calendar Year 2023	Total Number
1. New Cooling Tower Registrations	150 Cooling Towers (89 Cooling Tower Systems)
2. Decommission Notifications	151 Cooling Towers (95 Cooling Tower Systems)
3. Annual Certifications*	4,344 Cooling Towers (3,701 Cooling Tower Systems)
4. <i>Legionella</i> Results $\geq$ 1,000 CFU/mL	93 Sample Reports
5. Cooling Tower Inspections**	3,792 Cooling Towers (3,132 Cooling Tower Systems)
6. Violations Cited	1,720
Public Health Hazards Cited	288
Critical Violations Cited	1,071
General Violations Cited	361
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:***	
2023	281(preliminary)
2022	360
2021	363
2020	321
2019	443
2018	656
2017	435
2016	271
2015	439
2014	225

\* All registered cooling towers are subject to DOHMH inspections even if the owner has not submitted the annual certification.

\*\* DOHMH was not able to inspect all cooling towers in 2023 and prioritized inspections based on risk. Seven of the 3,792 inspections were inspections conducted at cooling tower systems that also received another inspection during this time period.

\*\*\* Counts include persons diagnosed with Pontiac Fever, a less severe disease also caused by Legionella bacteria. DOHMH has between 0 to 5 Pontiac Fever cases a year.