



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

Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Health Commissioner

**Annual Report for Cooling Towers and Legionnaires' Disease for
Reporting Year 2024**

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 (Health Department) 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 Health Department
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 Health Department
8. The number of persons diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease in the city in each of the previous 10 years

As of December 31, 2024, a total of 5,997 cooling towers were registered with the Department of Buildings, representing 4,973 cooling tower systems in 3,994 buildings across all five boroughs. More detailed information is described on the attached page.



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Reporting Information for Calendar Year 2024	Total Number
1. New Cooling Tower Registrations	139 Cooling Towers (90 Cooling Tower Systems)
2. Decommission Notifications	206 Cooling Towers (148 Cooling Tower Systems)
3. Annual Certifications *	4,381 Cooling Towers (3,729 Cooling Tower Systems)
4. <i>Legionella</i> Results \geq 1,000 CFU/mL	120 Sample Reports
5. Cooling Tower Inspections**	3,020 Cooling Towers (2,436 Cooling Tower Systems)
6. Violations Cited	1,322
Public Health Hazards Cited	274
Critical Violations Cited	781
General Violations Cited	267
7. Cleanings/disinfections performed by or on behalf of the Health Department	0
8. Persons diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease in each of the previous 10 years:***	
2024	257 (preliminary)
2023	281
2022	360
2021	363
2020	321
2019	443
2018	656
2017	435
2016	271
2015	439

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

** The Health Department inspected 3,016 unique cooling towers (50% of total) and re-inspected four in 2024. Health Department inspects cooling towers in NYC based on availability of staff resources and prioritizes based on risk.

*** Counts include persons diagnosed with Pontiac Fever, a less severe disease also caused by *Legionella* bacteria. The Health Department identifies 0 to 5 Pontiac Fever cases a year.