



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc  
*Commissioner*

## **Annual Report for Cooling Towers and Legionnaires' Disease for Reporting Year 2020**

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, 2020, 6,208 cooling towers were registered with the Department of Buildings, representing 5,250 cooling tower systems in 4,159 buildings across all five boroughs. More detailed information is described on the attached page.



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Reporting Information for Calendar Year 2020	Total Number
1. New Cooling Tower Registrations	189 Cooling Towers (122 Cooling Tower Systems)
2. Decommission Notifications	168 Cooling Towers (132 Cooling Tower Systems)
3. Annual Certifications*	4,118 Cooling Towers (3,581 Cooling Tower Systems)
4. <i>Legionella</i> Results $\geq$ 1,000 CFU/mL	153 Sample Reports
5. Cooling Tower Inspections**	3,326 Cooling Towers (2,773 Cooling Tower Systems)
6. Violations Cited	2,115
Public Health Hazards Cited	491
Critical Violations Cited	1,094
General Violations Cited	530
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:	
2020	321 (preliminary)
2019	447
2018	656
2017	435
2016	271
2015	439
2014	225
2013	301
2012	177
2011	216

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

\*\*Not all cooling towers were inspected in 2020 because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.