

THE RISKS

As a result of closure or part closure of buildings drinking water systems may have been subject to stagnation due to low turnover of mains water or water in storage. This could have resulted in warming of water in internal plumbing systems, microbiological regrowth, or increased uptake of plumbing metals.

Typical examples of deterioration problems might include the leaching of metals such as lead and nickel to a poisonous level; the build-up of *Legionella* in tanks creating serious respiratory hazards; the accumulation of foul taste or odour issues causing consumers concern or to reject the water.

Unless steps are taken before the building is reoccupied there is a risk of adverse drinking water quality and potential risks to health.