The critical access hospital manages risks associated with its utility systems.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for EC.02.05.01

14. The critical access hospital minimizes pathogenic biological agents in cooling towers, domestic hot- and cold-water systems, and other aerosolizing water systems.

The critical access hospital has a water management program.

Note: The water management program is in accordance with law and regulation.

Elements of Performance (EPs) for EC.02.05.02

1. The water management program includes an individual or team responsible for the oversight and implementation of the program, including but not limited to the development, management, and maintenance activities.

2. The individual or team responsible for the water management program develops the following:
   - A basic diagram that maps all water supply sources, treatment systems and control measures, processing steps, and all end-use points
   - A water risk management plan based on the diagram that includes an evaluation of the physical and chemical conditions of each step of the water flow diagram to identify any areas where potentially hazardous conditions may occur (these conditions can most likely occur in areas with slow or stagnant water), and an evaluation of the patient populations served to identify patients who are immunocompromised
   - A plan for addressing the use of water in areas of buildings where water may have been stagnant for a period of time (for example, unoccupied or temporarily closed areas)
   - Water monitoring protocols and acceptable ranges for control measures

3. The individual or team responsible for the water management program manages and documents the following:
   - Results of all monitoring activities
   - Corrective actions to follow if a positive bacteria test result is obtained
   - Specific procedures to follow when a probable or confirmed waterborne pathogen case is identified
   - Corrective actions taken when control limits are not maintained
   Note: See EC.04.01.01, EP 1 for the process of monitoring, reporting, and investigating utility system issues.

4. The individual or team responsible for the water management program maintains the following:
- Updating the water management program and/or risk management plan when any changes have been made to the water system that would add additional hazard points.
- Updating the water management program and/or risk management plan when any new equipment or at-risk water system(s) has been added that could potentially be a source for Legionella or generate aerosols. This includes the commissioning of a new wing or building.

Note 1: The Joint Commission does not require culturing for Legionella or other water-borne pathogens. Testing protocols are at the discretion of the critical access hospital unless required by law or regulation.