

TITLE: ...And is the Water Safe?

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ABSTRACT:

Historically, water has served as a major route by which human disease is transmitted. While the overall rate of waterborne disease has decreased over the past century, problems remain related to drinking water systems, contamination of food by pathogens in water, and recreational waters. Issues include exogenous contamination by “new” pathogens, as well as the presence of “autochthonous” pathogens that are increasingly being recognized in water (as reflected in our studies of *Legionella* and *Vibrio* species, both of which pose risks for special populations). These microorganisms highlight the need for ongoing research, and interventions, to minimize the public health impact of infectious water-related illness.