

# Avoid Legionnaires' disease when using potting mix and compost

Legionnaires' disease is a flu-like illness that can develop into severe pneumonia, caused by bacteria living in potting mix and compost. Garden safely by being Legionnaires' aware.

Here are six easy things you can do to prevent it:



## FACE MASK

Wear a well-fitting disposable face mask



## GLOVES

Wear gloves



## OPEN WITH SCISSORS

Open potting mix and compost bags carefully with scissors



## DAMPEN

Reduce dust by dampening down potting mix or compost



## OPEN AIR

Work in a well ventilated area outside



## WASH HANDS

Wash your hands after handling and before removing your mask



Further advice about safe gardening:  
[www.southernhealth.nz/legionnaires](http://www.southernhealth.nz/legionnaires)

Public Health South: Dunedin 476 9800  
Invercargill 211 8500 Queenstown 450 9156

**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand  
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