Here are ‘8 Reasons Why’ the ‘Gold Standard’ for Legionella testing is no longer ‘Gold’, nor good enough to protect you from Legionnaires’ Disease.

1. **Damage from Transport**
   - Water samples can get damaged on the transportation process, killing the Legionella inside. This increases the risk of a false negative result.

2. **Acid & Heat Treatment**
   - This process used in the lab to purify the sample can kill Legionella. This increases the risk of false negative results.

3. **Viable but Not-Culturable**
   - Some dangerous Legionella bacteria cannot ever be detected by the culture method.

4. **Artificial Environment**
   - Legionella grows easily inside amoeba in natural water systems but not on a plate in a lab. This increases the risk of false negative results.

5. **Legionella Can Infect Human Lungs**
   - In its most dangerous phase (motile phase), Legionella can infect human lungs. However, motile Legionella cannot be easily replicated via the culture method, due to the absence of natural amoeba.

6. **The Lab Test is Slow!**
   - Bacteria replicate rapidly and during the 10–14 day delay, businesses, employees and the public are exposed to risk.

7. **Lab Culture Testing Achieves Low Recovery Rates**
   - That’s a fact! It makes risk management almost impossible.

8. **Inefficient Information & Audit Trail**
   - After 10–14 days the written report must be delivered, read and interpreted before action can be planned. This results in further delays and prolonged periods of exposure to risk. What staff really need is a clear, immediate result which allows immediate action.