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Eugenio Cabezas

The swimming pool and gymnasium at the Club Municipal de Hielo in Arroyo de la Miel are due to reopen on October 15th. The facilities have been closed ever since the cooling tower in the complex's ice rink was responsible for the outbreak of Legionnaires' disease that affected 18 people and killed three of them. The reopening of the pool and gym was announced by the councillor for sports Francisco Artacho (IU), who added that people can now start signing up for activities.

Artacho also explained that the Town Hall has decided that the firm Gecosol Wellness - part of the Vera group - can keep the contract to manage the complex "as the firm was not directly responsible for the appearance of Legionella". He explained that the responsibility for the appearance of the bacteria lay with the maintenance company J. L. Huesa Guadaquivir.

"We have urged the management to end their contract with the firm", said the councillor, explaining that the Town Hall had designed a new plan for the maintenance of the sports facilities.

Meanwhile the councillor for Health, José Villalobos, stressed that the sports facilities due to reopen posed no health risk to users. The ice rink will not reopen at least for another two months, if at all, as the Junta de Andalucía is still carrying out tests.

Artacho stated that the Town Hall could impose a fine of up to 30,000 euros on Gecosol Wellness.