



# HAS YOUR FACILITY BEEN SHUT DOWN DURING COVID-19?



## FLUSH THE WATER SYSTEM UPON REOPENING.

The Aqua family of water and wastewater utilities aims to keep our customers continually informed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of the pandemic, you may have temporarily closed your business, church or school building. It is important for you to know that water held unused in pipes while buildings are closed can become stagnant and produce undesirable tastes or odors when the building is re-opened and water use is returned to normal. Extended periods of inactivity can also cause lead leaching or legionella growth. It is important to take proper steps to alleviate these potential issues.



### What Should You Do?

It is recommended that the building plumbing, including water heaters, be thoroughly flushed before reopening for normal use by flushing all cold water lines first followed by hot water lines. Thorough flushing includes operating all sink, tub, shower and toilet fixtures. Safety equipment, such as eye washes, safety showers and fire sprinkler systems may also require assessment and necessary maintenance.

### Standard plumbing equipment should be flushed as follows:

**Faucets and Showers:** Run for approximately 10 minutes total (cold lines first, then hot lines)

**Toilets:** Flush several times to ensure fresh water moves through piping

**Other Plumbing Appliances/Equipment:** We recommend flushing other appliances thoroughly to bring fresh water into the system. It is advisable to run water until you can smell the chlorine in the water. If you have an appliance such as a refrigerator or ice maker that has a filter, after flushing, you should follow manufacturer's instructions for replacing water filters.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For detailed information on reactivating plumbing systems after dormant conditions, please visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html)

Customers can also contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the following sites for more information:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-09/documents/flushing\\_best\\_practices\\_factsheet\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-09/documents/flushing_best_practices_factsheet_508.pdf)

<https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Coronavirus#10681543-shutoffs-and-return-to-service-guidance>