*Following Covid Building Un-Occupancy: Bring Building Plumbing Online Ensuring High Quality Drinking Water: Return to Service Guidance*

Utah Division of Drinking Water is requesting that public water systems and County Health Departments assist with getting guidance out to assist building owners, property managers, tenants, schools and residences ensure continued high quality drinking water when buildings become occupied again by following the following steps. These steps will help ensure non-stagnant water in smaller and residential buildings, and avoid potential for Legionella in large buildings including hotels.

General guidance:

* Ensure thorough flushing is conducted until water from the main is flushed at all taps, cold taps first and then hot taps
  + Until cold water at all cold taps or chlorine residual >1 mg/L if pool type test strips available
  + As needed, consult with local plumber to follow these recommended steps

More detailed residential building instructions from American Water Works Association: <https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Coronavirus#10681543-shutoffs-and-return-to-service-guidance>

* Remove or bypass devices like point-of-entry treatment units prior to flushing
* Take steps to prevent backflow or the siphoning of contaminants into plumbing (e.g., close valves separating irrigation systems from home plumbing, disconnect hoses attached to faucets, etc.)
* Organize flushing to maximize the flow of water (e.g. opening first all cold water outlets simultaneously to flush the service line and then flushing outlets individually starting near where the water enters the structure).
* Run enough water through all outlets (e.g., hose bibs, faucets, showerheads, toilets, etc.), removing aerators when possible.  Typical durations in existing protocols range from 10 to 30 minutes for each outlet (duration varies based on outlet velocity).
* Flush hot water lines.  Note: The hot water tank should be drained directly; it can require roughly 45 minutes to fully flush a typical 40-gallon hot water tank.
* Replace all point-of-use filters, including the filter in refrigerators.

CDC guidance for large buildings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

* These property owners/tenants/property managers/schools need to be aware that Legionella, the bacterium that causes a type of serious lung infection known as Legionnaires’ disease, grows best in building water systems that are not well maintained. Some water systems in buildings have a higher risk for Legionella growth and spread than others.