



Established

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SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 995
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Date: April 16, 2020

To: Institutional and Commercial Customers

RE: Lead and copper mitigation after building closures due to COVID-19

Due to the prolonged shutdown of school buildings and other facilities, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is advising critical customers of mitigation measures to ensure the safety of their water systems amid and following the coronavirus pandemic.

Standing or stagnant water due to building closures increase the potential for the leaching of lead and copper and the spread of *Legionella* and other bacteria within a building's plumbing.

Therefore, before schools and other buildings re-open, developing and implementing a flushing plan to flush drinking water pipes and fixtures is recommended.

Please see the attached guidance from the [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)* (MassDEP) regarding lead and copper mitigation, and the [Water Management Program Toolkit](#)** from the CDC to reduce *Legionella* growth. Both documents provide resources on developing flushing programs for these respective issues.

Sincerely,

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

* <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lead-and-copper-best-practices/download>

** <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html>

