Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office Reminds Returning Commercial Businesses and Residents to Flush Water Systems

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted during the next several weeks and months, and out of an abundance of caution, any Properties (Commercial OR Residential) which have gone unused for a significant period of time should take precautionary measures concerning their internal water systems. This applies to all unused facilities, whether they are on the Genesee County Water System, the Great Lakes Water Authority, City of Flint, or other local or private water supply.

What is the problem and who does it apply to?

If water is not used for a long period of time it becomes stagnant in the building plumbing, creating the potential for growth of bacteria in the water. When buildings and homes are vacated for an extended period, the stagnation of water inside a business or home’s internal plumbing can lead to water quality deterioration that may be associated with public health risks.

To protect against bacteria growth within internal piping, water suppliers and water experts across the country are recommending business owners, property managers, and residents on any water system follow State and Federal standardized guidelines as they look to reengage idle water systems. By implementing procedures now, you can protect the yourself, your family, and the public, while minimizing the steps needed to safely re-open closed or partially closed facilities.

Buildings most at risk are:

- Commercial Buildings
- Medical and Outpatient Facilities
- Dental Offices
- Eye Surgery Offices
- Hospitality
- Schools / Day Care
- Cultural Buildings
- Primary Care Facilities
- Workout Facilities
- Manufacturing
Examples of building water systems that should be addressed as part of a building water management plan:

- Potable Water Systems (including potable water storage tanks)
- Non-potable Water Systems (including items such as water features/fountains)
- Ice Machines
- Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Filters
- Cooling Towers
- Hot Tubs / Spas
- Pools

Guidance for Residential, Commercial, and other Public Internal Water Systems Impacted by Low, or Non-Usage

It remains critical that residential users on any water system examine Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) instructions on flushing internal water systems, if a home has been vacant or unused for a significant period of time. Commercial business owners and public building managers on any water system are asked to consult guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) relating to best practice standards for water systems when re-opening a structure.

[See attached documentation from EGLE]

[See attached documentation from CDC]
Who to Contact?

Anyone with questions or concerns related to their commercial business, building, or residence should contact their water supplier.

The following is a helpful contact list for water suppliers in Genesee County.

**WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Burton</td>
<td>(810) 742-9230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Clio</td>
<td>(810) 686-5850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Davison</td>
<td>(810) 653-2191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fenton</td>
<td>(810) 629-2261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Flushing</td>
<td>(810) 659-5665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee Township</td>
<td>(810) 640-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Grand Blanc</td>
<td>(810) 694-5420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Blanc Township</td>
<td>(810) 424-2640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Linden</td>
<td>(810) 735-7980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Montrose</td>
<td>(810) 639-6168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Mt. Morris</td>
<td>(810) 686-8380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Otisville</td>
<td>(810) 631-4680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Swartz Creek</td>
<td>(810) 635-4464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following Genesee County Water System retail communities should contact 810-793-5123.

- Clayton Township
- Flint Township
- Gaines Township
- Mt. Morris Township
- Richfield Township
- Vienna Township
- Davison Township
- Flushing Township
- Montrose Township
- Mundy Township
- Thetford Township