

Village of New Concord

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Jennifer Lyle
Mayor

Charlotte Colley
Village Administrator

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Water Flushing, Draining and/or Disinfection for Unoccupied Buildings Due to Stay-At-Home Order

As businesses begin to re-open in buildings that have had little to no water usage during the Stay-At-Home order it is important to flush, drain and possibly disinfect water before consumption. With little or no water usage over a long period of time (multiple weeks or months) the water in both cold- and hot-water distribution lines and fixtures can become stagnant. This stagnation can contribute to bacterial growth, including *Legionella*, which can cause a serious type of pneumonia called Legionnaires' disease. It can also cause other water quality issues with potential health risks due to the build-up of lead and copper in stagnant water that's been collecting in older pipes and fixtures.

If your organization has not been utilizing your building during the Stay-At-Home Order it is critical to flush water lines or drain, and possibly disinfect, devices that store water. The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency have issued the "[Guidance for Premise Plumbing Water Service Restoration](#)."

Please note that this guidance applies to the water systems of all types of buildings that have been unoccupied or partially occupied during the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to office buildings, manufacturing facilities, medical offices (e.g., physician and dentist offices, ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient centers, etc.), government facilities, and religious institutions. This guidance is not meant for buildings or individual residences that have been occupied and utilizing water during the Stay-At-Home order.

If you are a tenant of a building, we recommend that you share this information with the building owner, building manager, or management company and ask them to consider taking these precautions.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Village of New Concord at (740) 826-7671 or the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) or the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Contacts for ODH and OEPA are listed below.

Thank you,

Charlotte Colley
Village Administrator

Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Health & Radiation Protection
614) 466-1390
BEH@odh.ohio.gov

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
Emerging Contaminants Section
(614) 644-2752