



NEWS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD, OH (May 11, 2020)

Ohio EPA Advises Flushing Water Lines as Buildings Reopen

As business owners begin to reopen buildings that were closed during Stay-At-Home orders, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is advising individuals to flush water lines before use or consumption.

“If water lines haven’t been in use for a long period of time, you should flush those lines before using or drinking the water,” said City of Springfield Deputy Service Director Leslie McDermott. “Water that has been stagnant in the pipes may not be safe for use or consumption.”

Low water usage can contribute to bacterial growth, including Legionella which can cause a serious type of pneumonia called Legionnaires’ disease, and 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, according to an Ohio EPA announcement.

Members of the public are urged to flush, drain or disinfect hot and cold water systems to remove harmful contaminants, according to the Ohio EPA. The directive applies to buildings that were unoccupied or partially occupied during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anyone who has questions may contact the Service Department at 937-525-5800.

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