HAS YOUR FACILITY BEEN CLOSED FOR WEEKS?
FLUSH THE PIPES

Carol Stream Public Works remains committed to keeping you informed as we continue our work to deliver clean, safe, and reliable water and wastewater services to you during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As large buildings reopen, property management teams will restart building systems that have been dormant for a significant amount of time. Building owners and operators are encouraged to adopt a proactive approach that includes proper flushing procedures. This helps improve disinfectant residual levels, adjustment of hot water temperatures, and proper maintenance of building plumbing and heating/cooling systems.

Proper flushing requires an initial flush to remove low quality water and follow-up flushes to help bring the building back to pre-closure water quality. Read the below guide and resources to create the best plan for your facility.

WHO SHOULD FLUSH?
Facilities, buildings, and schools that have been dormant or closed.

STEP TO TAKE BEFORE FLUSHING (VARIRES DEPENDING ON STRUCTURE)
1. **Remove/bypass** devices like non-essential point-of-entry treatment units
2. **Prevent** backflow or the siphoning of contaminants into plumbing (e.g., close valves separating irrigation systems from plumbing, disconnect hoses attached to faucets, etc.)
3. **Organize** flushing to maximize the flow of water by starting near where the water enters the structure to the plumbing system’s periphery
4. **Flush** cold water lines first, then hot water lines. Set the water heater to at least 120 deg. F before flushing (IDPH link has a guidance document with details). Note: Hot water tanks can be drained directly and should be drained after flow resumption.

WHAT TO FLUSH?
- **Toilets:** At least twice to help move fresh water through the plumbing
- **Faucets:** Run at full flow for at least 10 minutes
- **Showers:** Run at full flow for at least 10 minutes
- **Other Appliances/Apparatus:** Flush other items thoroughly, at full flow, bringing fresh water into the system. Preferably run the water until you are able to smell the chlorine in the water.

**ONCE FLUSHING IS COMPLETED, REMEMBER:**
- **Follow manufacturer’s instructions for replacing point-of-use filters** in appliances, such as refrigerators and ice makers, as well as home water treatment units and pitchers.
- **Ongoing flushes** - Once the recommend flushing is complete, it is prudent to continue opening taps once a day until your building is re-occupied and consumption returns to normal.
- **Routinely remove and clean all faucet aerators and shower heads.**