

Preparing the School Water System for Fall Reopening

Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch
Drinking Water Section
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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH



Agenda

- Health Implications
- Steps before Reopening
- Return to Service Guidance & Procedures
- What to do after Reopening
- Questions??

Health Implications

- Legionella Bacteria
- Acinetobacter
- Lead
- Copper
- Manganese
- TTHMs & HAA5s (disinfection byproducts)

Steps Before Reopening

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- Contact the Water Provider
- Contact the Local Health Department
- Review & Assess the DPH “Return to Service” guidance



Steps Before Reopening

- Contact Water Utility to:
 - Coordinate flushing activities
 - Provide water quality parameters
 - Adjust chlorine residual if necessary
 - Schedule water quality readings
 - May assist in taking water samples
 - Check service meter

Important Considerations

- Include water service line length to your flushing calculations
- For schools on septic systems, be mindful of their operation
- Use temperature and chlorine residual as guides, as appropriate. Consult with water departments for this information
- Flushing of school plumbing should be a routine and continual practice, not the COVID exception.

Steps Before Reopening

- Contact the LHD to:
 - Determine any additional local requirements
 - Mold Hazard
 - Check with LHD and follow this CDC guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

Steps Before Reopening

- Review and Assess the DPH “[Return to Service](https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/COVID-19/COVID-19---Information-for-Public-Water-Systems)” guidance and other resources available for buildings with low flow or no flow at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/COVID-19/COVID-19---Information-for-Public-Water-Systems>
- Determine if you are served by “city water” or run your own on-site water system using wells.
- Coordinate with your district facilities manager or water certified operator if you have one retained.
- Inspect the Plumbing- be sure to flush out all potable water lines.

Preparing Your Building for Reopening

- Begin flushing from street to building- include service line
- Remove aerators and clean fixtures
- Flush in uni-directional fashion
- Flush zone by zone
- Flush cold water first and hot water second
- Flush drinking water fountains
- Flush ice machines
- Inventory filters & check status

Preparing Your Building for Reopening

- Check water softener or other devices if you have one
- Flush hot water pipes & water heaters
- Run hot water at all faucets and flush until water runs cool or typically for a minimum of:
 - 30 minutes for a hot water tank greater than 40 gallons.
 - Consult water system professionals or licensed plumber regarding the draining, flushing, or treatment for large capacity hot water tanks/boilers designed to deliver hot water.
- When flushing is complete test water for coliform bacteria and chlorine residual- list of certified labs link in guidance document

Proactive Steps After Reopening

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- Develop a water management plan (WMP) for each building. Use this CDC guidance to assist:
<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html>
- WMP will help to:
 - Identify high risk water taps
 - Develop control measures to minimize risk
 - Devise a verification and validation process
 - Establish methods to intervene and correct

QUESTIONS???

THANK YOU!

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