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For Immediate Release

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Health Update: Flushing Plumbing Systems that have been inactive since August 1st.

If you're lines have been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014 you do not need to flush your system.

Following are step-by-step procedures citizens can use to flush their plumbing system if their lines have not been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014. To protect the health and safety of our communities, we recommend that you read carefully and follow the steps for clearing your plumbing. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

For Residents

How to flush your plumbing system

Please complete these steps in the order set out below. Finish each step completely before moving on to the next step.

1. Flush ALL hot water taps for 15 minutes

Begin the flushing procedure by opening the hot water taps in your bathroom(s). Open ALL hot water lavatory (sink) fixtures, hot water bath fixtures, and any other hot water fixtures, such as kitchens, wet bars, etc. **Run these hot water fixtures for at least 15 minutes. Shut water off after 15 minutes.** After you have flushed each hot water faucet for 15 minutes, your hot water heater will be safe for use.

2. Flush ALL cold water taps for five minutes

Once the hot water tank and hot water piping have been flushed, open ALL of the cold water fixtures, flush each toilet at least one time. **Run these cold water fixtures for at least five minutes. Shut water off after five minutes.** This does include the water in your refrigerator water dispenser.

3. Flush ALL remaining faucets and appliances

(Before starting step 3, please see How to Flush Plumbing Appliances and Faucets for more information.) Open any remaining fixtures such as hose bibs, external faucets or fixtures not

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used for drinking for at least five minutes to finish the plumbing system flushing. Take additional steps to remove water from other appliances. See How to Flush Plumbing Appliances and Faucets for more information. This includes:

- Ice makers
- Dishwashers
- Humidifiers
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- Oral, medical or health care devices
- Baby formula, food and drinks made with water during DO NOT USE
- Water filters
- Water Softeners
- Reverse osmosis units

**For Restaurants
How to flush your plumbing system**

If you're lines have been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014 you do not need to flush your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please follow the same guidelines for residents if you have not used tap water since Friday, August 1st, 2014. All food contact surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized after flushing; including, sinks, ice machines, steam tables, proofers, and anything in your operations that utilizes tap water.

**For Healthcare Providers
How to flush your plumbing system**

If you're lines have been used since Friday, August 1st, 2014 you do not need to flush your system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please follow the same guidelines for residents if you have not used tap water since Friday, August 1st, 2014. All food contact surfaces should be cleaned and sanitized after flushing; including, sinks, ice machines, steam tables, proofers, and anything in your operations that utilizes tap water. **Flush critical equipment such as sterilization units and eye wash stations twice for 15 minutes and follow normal testing protocols before use.**

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department will not need to test your water before you resume operations. We are checking with Ohio Department of Health to see if any other guidelines will be forthcoming.

For questions, please contact 419-936-2020.

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