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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CITY OF ALAMOGORDO

City of Alamogordo

Water Check for Reopening Businesses

Alamogordo, NM Monday, May 18, 2020 As businesses restart operations after the COVID-19 stay at home order, the City of Alamogordo Water Treatment Division is reminding all building owners and managers of the importance of maintaining good water quality by flushing your water system. Stagnant or standing water can cause conditions that increase the risk for the growth and spread of Legionella bacteria and other water-borne illnesses. Flushing a building's water system, which includes pipes and water-using devices, replaces all water inside the building piping with fresh water.

All businesses, buildings, and schools that have been closed should follow the guidance set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The guidance provides a list of eight steps to take before reopening a building to ensure the water quality and safety of the building's water system. The list also includes information about decorative water features (e.g. fountains), hot tubs/spas, cooling towers and safety equipment. Necessary steps include:

- Flush hot and cold water through all points of use (e.g., showers, sink faucets).
- Flushing may need to occur in segments (e.g., floors or individual rooms) due to facility size and water pressure. The purpose of building flushing is to replace all water inside building piping with fresh water.
- Flush until the hot water reaches its maximum temperature.
- Ensure safety equipment (including fire sprinkler systems, eyewash stations, and safety showers) are clean and well-maintained. Regularly flush, clean, and disinfect these systems according to manufacturer's specifications.

For detailed information on reactivating plumbing systems after dormant conditions, visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>. Customers can also contact the US Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or visit the following site for more information: www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use

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