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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Important to Flush Stagnant Water Before Reopening**

**Allentown, PA** – May 22, 2020 – As local businesses begin to prepare for reopening, it is important they plan to flush out stagnant water, especially in buildings used for medical purposes. While many businesses have been completely closed, some for months, toilets have not been flushed and water has not been run through internal plumbing. This means an increased opportunity for water quality to degrade and bacteria to grow, such as mold or Legionella. Flushing the plumbing system, along with machines and appliances that use water, will allow fresh, clean water to be drawn into the system.

Flushing instructions will vary depending on building size and internal plumbing. There are a variety of resources available to help building personnel know what to consider in their flushing plan. According to the PA Department of Health, “parts of the water system that are most important to flush because they have the greatest opportunity to make people sick include:

- faucets used for drinking water or food preparation
- drinking fountains
- ice machines and refrigerators with ice makers
- showers
- kitchen sink sprayers
- water features that generate aerosols (fountains, spas, etc.)
- parts of the water system that are used by children
- components of the water system used by elderly people and susceptible people”

Prior to opening faucets, ensure drains are open to avoid flooding. Flush all toilets several times to ensure clean water has moved into the system. Appliances that use water should be flushed and cleaned according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Lehigh County Authority encourages business customers that have been closed due to COVID-19 to review several guidance documents available on our website prior to reopening. The resources provided will help businesses know the steps to take for flushing stagnant water. Visit <https://lehighcountyauthority.org/B2Bflushing>

**About [Lehigh County Authority](#):** Lehigh County Authority (LCA) is a public water and wastewater utility committed to providing unparalleled service to residents and businesses. LCA provides water service to more than 55,000 residential and commercial properties throughout Lehigh and Northampton counties, including the City of Allentown, and sewer service to about 35,000 properties, primarily in the City of Allentown. A nonprofit, public agency, LCA was founded in 1966 by the County of Lehigh and is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors appointed by the County.

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