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Quality Water Matters

Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor
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As we enter the second month of the Governor's #StayHomeStaySafe order, reduced workforces, empty streets, lines to enter grocery stores and floor markings to guide physical distancing requirements have become commonplace. Our mad rush to stock up on toilet paper and tissues seems to have slightly abated, as these products seem to be more readily available. For many of us our lives have substantially changed, and a return to normal does not appear imminent.

Michiganders want to return to work and we want our economy to reopen. There is tension between this strong desire and the need to reopen safely so we don't create a second wave that could inundate our health system and cause more illnesses and deaths.

The City of Ann Arbor utilities (both water and wastewater) understand the critical role we play in this pandemic, and that hygiene is paramount. I want to share a portion of an op-ed piece I wrote that was featured in Crain's Detroit last month. <https://www.craindetroit.com/other-voices/commentary-heroes-behind-scenes-working-keep-public-safe>

... It is now more important than ever that the infrastructure to operate drinking water and wastewater systems are adequately maintained and staffed to ensure these critical services are not interrupted. Identified as essential workers under both Governor Whitmer's Executive Order and by the federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, water and wastewater system operators continue to work through the pandemic to ensure

safe water is delivered to the millions of Michigan residents and businesses that rely on municipal water systems and is collected and treated before discharged back into the environment by municipal wastewater systems.



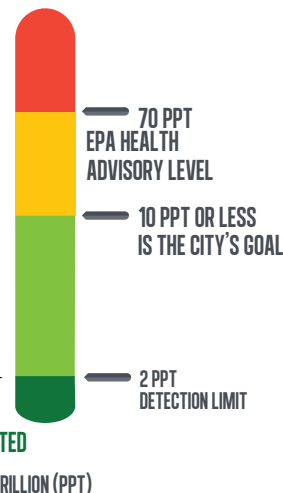
The health and safety of these vital licensed operators are critical to our single pathway to overcome this pandemic. In my utility, many of these workers are working long hours, to minimize the number of shift changes, away from their families

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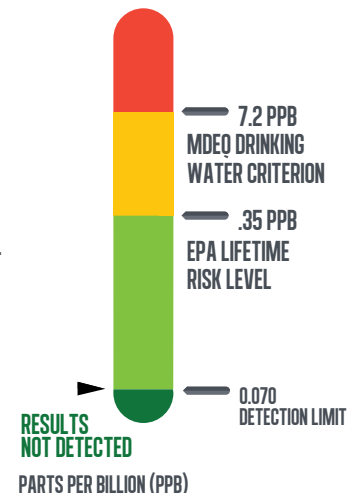
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA

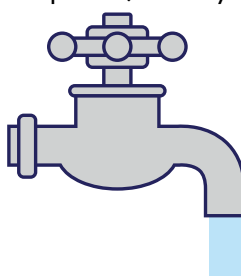


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IMPORTANT WATER INFORMATION FOR REOPENING BUSINESSES

During the coming weeks as local businesses are gradually reopened, the city has created important guidelines to follow to ensure that water is fresh and safe for all uses at properties where there has been limited occupancy during the past few months.



The guidelines include adequately flushing pipes to ensure that stagnant water is removed before use. Visit www.QualityWaterMatters.org for more information.

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to help protect public health in the community in which they work. It is not uncommon that they work 12-hour shifts, seven days in a row, before being relieved by their peers. Know that behind the scenes, every time you turn the tap to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that there is a team of licensed professionals that are tirelessly working to help you and your family fight transmission of this deadly virus...

I am extremely proud of the utility workers who have staffed both our water and wastewater treatment plants, and those who have responded to distribution and collection issues since March. They are all working hard to ensure our basic needs are met during this crisis and deserve our thanks. If you see utility workers driving around in a City of Ann Arbor vehicle, please give them a thumbs-up in recognition of your appreciation for their commitment.

We hope that you, our customers, are both safe and healthy. Please know that no matter the challenges we may face, we are committed to providing you safe and reliable drinking water.

Brian Steglitz

Brian Steglitz, P.E., Drinking Water License F-1, Water Treatment Plant Manager, Ann Arbor resident

EVENT CANCELLATION



CANCELED:

The City of Ann Arbor Water Treatment Open House scheduled for Saturday, May 9,

has been canceled, as have all other city-permitted events through at least May 15.

STORM DRAIN SCAVENGER HUNT

Want to play outside with your family and protect Mother Nature at the same time? Play the Ann Arbor Stormwater Smart storm drain scavenger hunt!

Download the list of items to search for at www.A2gov.org/stormwater and head out to your neighborhood streets to collect items like leaves, sticks, food wrappers or rocks that might be blocking storm drains.

Make it a competition with your neighbors (from a safe distance, of course) to see who can collect the most items from the hunt! Cleaning storm drains is a great way to help keep the Huron River clean and prevent flooding in your neighborhood streets.



Download the list of items on our site.

MAY WATER CHAMPIONS

The City of Ann Arbor wants to thank everyone in our community who has heeded warnings to not flush wipes and who has taken the steps necessary to maintain the functionality of private and public plumbing and sewer systems.



“Flushable wipes” create blockages in household pipes and municipal sewer systems and should never be flushed down the toilet, nor should facial tissue or paper towels.

Combined with fats, oil and greases, which should never be poured down the sink, these products can create enormous and expensive-to-remove,

“fatbergs.” In addition, to ensure that each household has enough toilet paper and stores are able to maintain a steady supply, everyone is encouraged to buy only what they need.

So please remember, no wipes in the pipes!

2019 Water Quality Report

The [2019 Annual Water Quality Report](#) is now available and explains where your drinking water comes from, what is in it and how we keep it safe.

