

# COVID-19 Guidance for Monitoring NTNCs and TNC Water Systems

We understand that many of our NTNC (Non-Transient Non-Community) and TNC (Transient Non-Community) water systems serve schools, daycares, restaurants, churches, campgrounds and other business that may be closed during the Governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy Order. We will be taking into account how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting these water systems, our main goal is protecting public health. This guidance will help you make important decisions about maintaining your water system during this time.

## Maintain Your Water System

We recommend you continue to monitor and maintain your water system to ensure these business and other facilities can reopen quickly and provide safe and reliable water when that happens. Routine operation of pumps, filters, treatment units and flushing of plumbing will ensure that water system is operational and reduce the risks from water stagnation, such as increased corrosion (possible lead and/or copper scale release) and bacterial growth.

If the school, restaurant, church or business is closed and not serving any residential connections, providing meals or other services it may be possible to reduce or cease routine coliform sampling during the prolonged closure. Please contact your [Regional Office's Coliform Manager](#) to discuss your situation.

## Disinfection Residual Monitoring

For systems that are continuously disinfected, we understand that daily chlorine residual monitoring at closed facilities may not be possible during this time. However, we do still expect water systems to submit their disinfection treatment reports each month. If no one is present to access the water, then no chlorine residual monitoring is understandable. Please document this on your reports. We strongly recommend monitoring the chlorine residual in the distribution systems even if no one has access to the water. The loss of chlorine residual in the distribution system may increase pipe corrosion and bacteria growth. We recommend routinely monitoring the free chlorine, at least weekly, and flushing to ensure the water quality in the distribution system and building plumbing systems.

## Start-up Prior to Re-Opening

If the water system is not monitored and maintained during the shut-down, prior to re-opening you will need to conduct start-up inspections and investigative coliform sampling to ensure the water is safe. We recommend following our seasonal start-up and inspection procedures available on our [website](#). These procedures include: flushing stagnant water out of your plumbing, including pressure tanks and finished water reservoir; disinfecting the system and collecting coliform bacteria samples prior to people having access to the potable water system.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

If your water system has treatment, review the manufacturer's specifications for your treatment systems and follow their start-up procedures.

## More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

The risk of COVID-19 is not connected to race, ethnicity or nationality. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share accurate information with others to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

**Have more questions about COVID-19?** Call our hotline: **1-800-525-0127**. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. (Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact your health care provider.

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