



MEMORANDUM

TO: Public and Private Schools in Maryland
Local Boards of Education

FROM: Saeid Kasraei, Administrator *Saeid*
Water Supply Program

DATE: August 9, 2019

RE: IMPORTANT REMINDER: Preventing Water Quality Problems

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As the 2019 – 2020 school year is approaching, and the students and staff are getting ready to start the new school year, we want to remind you of some simple measures that can improve the quality of the drinking water at your school prior to the opening day.

For many schools, the water remains stagnant in the plumbing throughout the summer, which may increase the risk of bacterial growth, including coliform bacteria, in the plumbing. Furthermore, when the stagnant water is in contact with plumbing (e.g., pipes, fixtures, etc.) for extended periods of time, elevated concentrations of metals, including lead and copper, may develop.

As a preventive measure, the Water Supply Program strongly recommends that the entire school's water distribution system be flushed prior to the beginning of the academic year. The recommended flushing will remove the stagnant water which may contain elevated levels of bacteria and metals. These actions may help prevent water quality problems that potentially occur due to an inactive plumbing system at a school over the summer.

Please call the Water Supply Program at (410) 537-3729, if you have any question regarding this reminder.

cc: County Environmental Health Director