

MDC COVID-19 UPDATE FOR MARCH 16

March 16, 2020
For Immediate Release

(HARTFORD, CT) – In response to ongoing developments relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Metropolitan District (MDC) is enacting additional protocols to keep our employees and customers safe which in turn will provide the ability to provide uninterrupted drinking water and wastewater services to more than 400,000 residents of the Hartford Region.

CLOSURES AND SUSPENSION OF LATE FEES

As of today, the MDC is closing all of its facilities to the general public in the abundance of caution. For the time being, the outdoor recreation areas located in West Hartford, Bloomfield and Hartland will continue to remain open. The closure includes the MDC's walk-in payment center located at 60 Murphy Road in Hartford. MDC posted notices in all areas today, on our websites and social media **to notify the public that MDC has suspended all Dunning (late payment fees) of customer accounts**. Payments may be made on line or over the phone. If customers do not have access to any of these options, they are being directed to pay their water bill at one of our alternate payment locations, **participating stores**, which are identified on their water bills. In any case, customers will not be penalized for late payments. All other options for customers to pay their bills remain available, including the call center at (860) 278-7850 or online at www.themdc.org.

MDC CONTINUES TO COORDINATE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATORS; SAFETY OF PUBLIC DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have FAQs available on COVID-19 as to how it relates to public drinking water and wastewater.

CDC

“Can the COVID-19 virus spread through drinking water?”

“The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.”

“Can the COVID-19 virus spread through sewerage systems?”

“CDC is reviewing all data on COVID-19 transmission as information becomes available. At this time, the risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 through sewerage systems is thought to be low. Although transmission of COVID-19 through sewage may be possible, there is no evidence to date that this has occurred. This guidance will be updated as necessary as new evidence is assessed.”

EPA

“Is drinking tap water safe?”

“EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the, “presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low.” Additionally, according to the CDC, COVID-19 is mainly thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another. Further, EPA’s drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.”

“Can I get COVID-19 from wastewater or sewage?”

“WHO has indicated that “there is no evidence to date that COVID-19 virus has been transmitted via sewerage systems, with or without wastewater treatment.”

LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

To keep our customers informed, there is a dedicated webpage for information and FAQs about COVID-19 as it relates to the MDC.

MDC COVID-19 Page

www.themdc.org/news-events/covid-19-information

CDC Water Transmission and COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

EPA Coronavirus and Drinking Water and Wastewater FAQ

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater#wastewater-sewage>

***About MDC:** The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, wastewater treatment and other services to its member towns: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, East Granby and Portland.*

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