

To: All Licensed Operators and Noncommunity Water Systems (Including Schools)
From: Division of Water Supply & Geoscience
Re: **Lead and Copper Sampling Guidance for Periods of Abnormally Stagnant Water Use**
Date: April 20, 2020

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) understands that the operation of noncommunity water systems (NCWSs) may deviate from normal use, such as seasonal and holiday closures, or vacancy due to various reasons including construction or a change in ownership. As a reminder to all licensed operators and NCWSs, including schools, lead and copper samples shall be collected representative of the drinking water under normal operations to properly capture a person's potentially exposure to the contaminant. To replicate the NCWS's normal operation, it is advised to conduct a system wide flushing 48 hours prior to sample collection. A system wide flushing consists of flushing the entire distribution system not just flushing the lead and copper sampling sites. If conducted properly, a system wide flushing will sufficiently remove the water that has been left stagnant for an unusually extended period. DEP recommends NCWSs, regardless if they are a school, to follow the thorough instructions on how to conduct system wide flushing provided in the Lead Testing in School's Sampling Plan Attachment H (iii) available at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/plan.htm>.

For additional guidance on flushing, review the Overview Lead in Drinking Water at School Facilities document at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/techguide.pdf>. For additional Lead and Copper Rule guidance, visit the DEP's lead website at <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead.html>.

In an effort to continue to work together, the DEP strongly encourages you to contact us via email at watersupply@dep.nj.gov using the Subject Line of "NCWS LCR Guidance" with questions, concerns or difficulties you may encounter regarding your regulatory requirements.