



**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Gregory Busch, Deputy Manager *gcb*  
Water Supply Program

**DATE:** August 13, 2021

**RE:** IMPORTANT REMINDER: Preventing Water Quality Problems

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As the 2021 – 2022 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 and Legionella, 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, MDE's Water Supply Program strongly recommends that the entire school's water distribution system be flushed prior to the beginning of the academic year and periodically during times of reduced water usage. The recommended flushing will help to remove the stagnant water which may contain elevated levels of bacteria and metals. These preventive actions will help your school to avoid potential water quality problems that may have resulted from an inactive water system 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