



Lake Charter Township Water System Newsletter



May 2020

2019 CCR Now Available!

The 2019 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is now available. The water quality report describing the source and quality of your drinking water is available through the Lake Charter Township website which can be found here:

<http://www.lake-township.org/ltw-2019-ccr.pdf>.

If you would like to receive a paper copy, one can be mailed to you by contacting Jeff Burkhard, Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent:

jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org
269-465-3850.

State of the Water System

Covid-19 Update

Jeff Burkhard

Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent

Has drinking water been affected by the Covid-19 virus? That is a question many people may have. The EPA has provided information on this topic...

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. Read more from the CDC about transmission of COVID-19. Further, EPA's drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.

Do I need to boil my drinking water?

Boiling your water is not required as a precaution against COVID-19.

Is tap water safe to use for hand washing?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. According to the CDC, washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Be assured that the Water Department is in contact with State and Federal agencies regularly. Although we are not expecting any changes, in the event there is a change or an update with regards to Covid-19 and drinking water, we will be on top of it and communicate to all of our customers accordingly.

For now, continue to enjoy the water provided to you by your Lake Charter Township Water System!



Have You Noticed This?

Starting in 2019, the Water Department began changing how water meters in the system are read and recorded. We have changed from manually reading the meter to installing a remote reading device. This allows our meter reader to simply drive by your house and electronically read your meter.

We hope to have all of our customers changed over to the new electronic reader by the end of 2020. There are some meters that will need to be updated and replaced as they are original meters from the 1970's. If your meter needs to be updated, a member of our department will contact you to schedule a time to get this completed. There will be no cost to the homeowner if a meter needs to be updated.

2020 Scheduled System Upgrades

- Filter Valve Replacement Project
- Security Fencing Around Perimeter of Water Plant
- Continuation of Distribution Valve Replacement
- Electronics / SCADA System Upgrades
- Rehab Bulk Sodium Hypochlorite Tanks
- Implementation of Updated Cross Connection Control Program

Cross Connection Inspections Are Coming to Lake Charter Township Water System!

Did You Know?

Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected! The purpose of our Cross-Connection Control Program is to ensure that everyone on our system has safe, clean drinking water.

Why Do I Need A Cross-Connection Inspection?

The short answer is it is the law. The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act of 1976 PA 399 was updated in 2015 which made specific changes to cross-connections. The law reads as follows:

Rule 1403. (1) A temporary or permanent unprotected cross connection between a public water supply system and any source, piping, or system that may contain non-potable water or other substances is prohibited. (2) Sub-rule (1) of this rule applies to **all customer types**, such as, **industrial, commercial, institutional, governmental, and single and multi-unit residential.**

(3) Piping configurations creating the potential for water from a public distribution system to flow through a private water main or customer site piping and back into the public system are prohibited. Areas of private water main served by two or more service connections, where flow through the private system can re-enter the public system shall have cross connection control protection installed at each connection point to the public system.

History: 1979 AC; 2015 AACS.

Lake Charter Township Water System has been conducting cross connection inspections on all commercial and industrial sites for over 20 years.

The Water Department has partnered with Hydro Corp Inc., to implement and conduct all commercial and residential inspections. For the majority of our water customers, a vacuum breaker hose bib adapter (which will be provided by the water department through Hydro Corp) will be all you need to be compliant. A few common cross connections are lawn irrigation, swimming pools / hot tubs, boilers, lawn hydrants or a hose submerged in water (bucket, tub, pool etc.).

Something as simple as a hose with a spray nozzle attached sitting in the yard with the water to the hose turned on can create a back-pressure situation. The sun heats up the water in the hose which increases the pressure in the hose enough to start back feeding the hose water in your homes plumbing. The result in this situation is you would be drinking and using the water that was laying in your hose.

If, instead of a spray nozzle on the hose, it was a bottle of pesticide and there was a back-pressure situation, your home's fresh water supply would be contaminated with the pesticide attached to the hose. As you see, it doesn't take much to be affected by a cross connection. The Water Department wants everyone to be aware of these potential but avoidable problems.

When Will Your Residence Be Inspected?

Residential inspections will begin starting next year, 2021. The goal is to have all residential accounts inspected by the end of 2026. If it is determined that you currently **do not** have a cross-connection, the next inspection would not be required for 20 years. If a cross-connection **is determined**, Hydro Corp will notify you of the findings and / or corrective actions. This is necessary to protect both you and the water supply from a potential contamination. All residential sites that have a cross-connection will need on-going inspections. Those inspections would be conducted between 1 and 5 years depending on the type of cross connection identified. There will be no cost for the inspection. However, the cost for any corrective action deemed necessary would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Public Health & Safety...

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act of 1976 PA 399 wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross-connection. The Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Environment (MEGLE) requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program for all connections – commercial, industrial and residential. This involves public education, onsite inspections, and if required, corrective actions by building owners and homeowners.

