



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Subject: COVID-19 and Greeley's Water & Sewer Operations

Concern about the coronavirus causing COVID-19 is understandable and appropriate. The question on some people's minds might be whether the COVID-19 virus spreads through drinking water. Greeley's drinking water is safe; continue to use and drink water from the tap as usual.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and American Water Works Association (AWWA), "COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water".

The highest priority for the City of Greeley's Water & Sewer Department is protecting the health and safety of Greeley residents. Current, standard drinking water treatment methods assure a complete disinfection process, with no threat of drinking water becoming a source of the virus. Also, our wastewater recovery process uses an ultraviolet light disinfection system to assure the destruction of viruses before water is returned to the Poudre River. Greeley's treatment plants are designed to stop waterborne pathogens, like viruses, from contaminating drinking water and wastewater. The city monitors water quality 24/7 at our treatment plants.

Given that one of the best ways to prevent the spread of viral illness is to limit contact, City of Greeley officials closed non-emergency city facilities in response to the proliferation of COVID-19. While in-person payments are not currently available, please pay your bill by mail, phone, or online. Please visit greeleygov.com/utilitybilling for more information on payment options.

There are reports of increased sewer system blockages in Greeley. With the concern over the spread of COVID-19, there is a heightened use of cleaning wipes, disinfectant cloths, chemicals, and other paper products. Even if a product claims to be "flushable," it can cause problems in wastewater systems. A good rule of thumb is only to flush the 3 P's, toilet paper, pee, and poop. Keep all other materials out of toilets and drains. Following these suggestions will avoid clogged pipes at resident's homes, and wastewater collection overflows into streets and the Poudre River.

The City of Greeley and its partners are closely monitoring the situation. The health and safety of our community is our primary concern. To get more information and updates from the City on COVID-19 at greeleygov.com/covid-19.

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