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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM No. 47

TO: District Facilities Directors

FROM: Greg Dunbar, MBA, AIA, Manager, District Facilities Branch

DATE: January 14, 2021

Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) wants to stress the importance of water quality in school buildings as they are reopened to in-person learning following extended periods of little or no occupancy due to the COVID pandemic. School buildings that have sat empty may have poor water quality due to stagnation in buildings' water lines.

The DOW recommends flushing all water lines. Information on flushing can be found in [Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Guidance for Reopening Businesses and Buildings](#).

Lead contamination is of particular concern to school systems and can become an issue where water lines have not been used for extended periods. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides the [3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Toolkit](#) and [checklist](#). A routine flushing program also can help maintain water quality throughout the school year. Guidance for routine flushing in school systems is located in the 3Ts toolbox under [3Ts Routine Flushing best practices](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, your local water system is an excellent resource. You also can contact [Gabriel Tanner](#) at the Kentucky Division of Water with questions.

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