# SCHOOL DRINKING WATER PROGRAM RESTORING DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

All schools must ensure drinking water quality by performing water system maintenance during extended shutdowns and transitional periods.

## Maintenance includes three basic actions:

- **1.** Flushing
- 2. Filter Replacement
- 3. Faucet aerator and screen replacement

#### Flushing - removes stagnant water to:

- Reduce waterborne health risks associated with microbial contamination, lead, copper, and disinfection by-products.
- Reduce drinking water complaints.
- Improve system and water use device function.

The following resources can be found on the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's School Drinking Water website (Michigan.gov/SchoolWater):

- Checklist for Restoring & Maintaining Water Quality
- Flushing Guidance for School building Drinking Water Quality Webinar
- How Do I Start a Building Plumbing Assessment? Informational Video
- School Flushing Protocol Informational Video
- School Building Flushing Best Practices (Fresh Tap Method)
- Pre-Flushing Event Guidance for School Plumbing
- EGLE Guidance for Flushing School Plumbing (High Velocity Method)
- Building Use and Sampling Preparation Flow Chart

#### Filter and faucet aerators and screens replacement

- Filter replacement to ensure they function to remove specified contaminants.
- Replacing or cleaning aerators and screens removes trapped particles.

Information on filters and aerators can be found at Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe under Drinking Water. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation on changing filters.

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## **Other Resources (Legionella Concerns)**

- Responding to Water Stagnation in Buildings with Reduced or No Water Use (American Water Works Association)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Guidance

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