



Valued Customer,

As concerns about COVID-19 escalate, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System (LPRW) wants to share important information about your water and let you know how we all can prevent the spread of the virus.

A brief statement by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) is shared:

At this time, existing safe management techniques in both drinking water and sanitation apply to COVID-19. Extra measures are not needed. In particular, disinfection treatment processes will facilitate more rapid die-off of the COVID-19 virus. Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions play an essential role in protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Frequent and proper hand washing is one of the most important prevention measures for COVID-19. Good and consistently applied hygiene in communities, homes, schools, workplaces, marketplaces and health care facilities will further help to prevent human-to-human transmission of COVID-19.

A recent survey by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) has found the biggest concern in the public water sector is in overall operations.

Absenteeism and continuity of operations are the major areas of expected challenges from COVID-19 for water utilities. Other concerns include impacts on field operations and interruptions of treatment chemical supply chains.

Water utilities and other service providers continue to carry out their day-to-day responsibilities of providing safe and reliable water and sanitation services to communities, many with detailed emergency preparedness plans already in hand.

LPRW staff are implementing additional precautions to protect our employees, customers and communities, including limiting entry upon customer residences, and livestock facilities to emergency calls only. If emergency service work is to be scheduled at your residence, please kindly inform staff if anyone at that location is sick or showing signs of sickness.

Presently, our facilities including our main office is closed to the public. If this presents a hardship, please contact our main office by calling (507-368-4248) for assistance.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers the following tips to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available