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## Water is Safe to Drink and Use Every Day

(March 20, 2020 – Lewisville, TX) In light of the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding Coronavirus (COVID-19), Upper Trinity is taking the necessary steps to operate UTRWD's regional systems, while protecting the health and safety of those served by UTRWD as well as its employees. ***The water we provide is safe and reliable to drink and use every day.***

We will continue to closely monitor the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency and local public health agencies on appropriate preparations and responses to potential impacts from COVID-19. Below are current facts about the virus related to drinking water and wastewater treatment. We will continue to work closely with the cities and utilities we service and urge you to follow your city's website and social media for updates.

***Regional Treated Water System.*** According to the CDC, the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. ***Water from UTRWD is safe to drink.*** Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. COVID-19 and other viruses do not persist in chlorinated / chloraminated water.

UTRWD employs state-of-the-art water treatment processes, using ozone as secondary disinfection at the Taylor Water Treatment Plant and membrane filtration at the Harpool Water Treatment Plant. Chlorine / chloramines are used at both water treatment plants as disinfectants throughout the entire transmission system.

***Regional Water Reclamation Systems.*** According to the Water Environment Federation, there is currently no evidence on survival of COVID-19 in wastewater. While studies of other virus strains indicate they can be found in untreated wastewater, standard municipal wastewater system disinfection practices, including ultraviolet radiation and / or chlorination, are effective in controlling the virus.

UTRWD's goal is to maintain normal operations at all of the water and wastewater treatment plants, as reasonably possible. Members and Customers can expect to continue to receive the same, high-standard of service as before. UTRWD staff will continue to regularly monitor and maintain the required disinfection levels in treated water and wastewater to ensure compliance with all public and environmental health standards.

UTRWD is observing all CDC recommendations and is fully committed to reducing the risk of adverse health impacts to our employees, partners, consultants, contractors, and vendors. Until further notice, face-to-face meetings have been discontinued, non-essential travel suspended and outside business will be conducted via teleconference and / or videoconference. Increased cleaning and disinfecting work areas will be complete on a regular basis. UTRWD staff is also testing and reinforcing remote work arrangements; and, if necessary, may adjust the administrative office hours.

These precautions are being implemented to ensure UTRWD continues to provide safe, reliable water and wastewater services for residents within its service area. Please stay alert for more updates as the situation detects, and because procedural changes may be necessary. ***Preparation in advance is key.***