



November 3, 2020

Mary Grant
Public Water for All Campaign
1616 P Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Grant:

Thank you for your letter requesting a moratorium on water service disconnections for nonpayment during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

With thousands of personnel supporting the pandemic response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is at the forefront of the federal government's efforts to control the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. We have spent decades fighting epidemics and pandemics, which gives us the experience needed to mitigate the impact of this virus on the American public.

We understand the critical need for clean water in all communities. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, CDC recommends washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>).

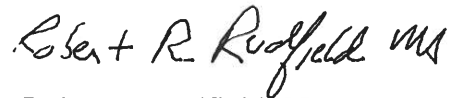
In situations where water is not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However, be aware that sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs. Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy. Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>).

Even under circumstances where clean water is not available, evidence indicates that hygiene practices (for example, washing hands) using unsafe water are beneficial to reducing the spread of disease and are better than not washing at all. When access to safe water is poor, CDC recommends using unsafe water in the same manner as safe water for hygiene practices, to clean hands before eating, after using the toilet, and at other key times (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/lcd/index.html>).

CDC provides the agency's most up-to-date COVID-19 information, resources, and guidance at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.

Thank you for your interest in this ongoing response. We appreciate your support as we work together to fight COVID-19. CDC remains committed to protecting the American public during this pandemic. Please share a copy of this response with the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R. Redfield MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director, CDC