



## **CITY OF PLANTATION WATER SYSTEM CHLORINATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM** **BEGINS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**

The City of Plantation will be temporarily switching to free chlorination in its drinking water system beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, September 23, 2019 and ending at 8 a.m. on Monday, October 7, 2019.

Free Chlorination is a regularly scheduled preventive maintenance procedure for water systems using combined chlorination (chloramines) for disinfection. The City expects the free chlorination period to be transparent to our customers; however, some may notice a slight change in the taste or smell of their tap water. In addition, some may see fire hydrants with flowing water in their neighborhood as a normal part of this process. Residents who are on kidney dialysis or those who have other medical conditions should contact their health care providers for more information about increasing chlorine levels in their drinking water during this time.

At all times during this process your water will continue to meet Local, State, and Federal standards for clean water and is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking, and all other purposes.

The City of Plantation maintains the highest standards to ensure that clean, high quality drinking water is delivered to our customers. The City's water meets federal, state, and local primary drinking water standards.

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact, Rupert McCormack, Regulatory Compliance & Laboratory Manager, at 954-414-7355 or [Water@Plantation.org](mailto:Water@Plantation.org).

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Free Chlorination**

#### **What Is Free Chlorination?**

Free chlorination is a **temporary** process change that distributes free chlorine residual in place of combined chlorine (chloramine) throughout the water distribution system.

Free chlorination is recommended by experts in the field of water treatment as a best practice action for routine distribution system maintenance to remove biofilms from inside the distribution pipes. This practice is typically performed once a year over a two- to four-week time period.

**What Is Free Chlorine Residual?**

Switching to **free chlorine residual** is created by using only chlorine as a primary disinfectant. This is a stronger disinfectant than using standard chloramine residual.

**What is Chloramine?**

Chloramine is a disinfectant used in drinking water made up of chlorine and ammonia together.

**How Is Chlorine Added to Drinking Water?**

Water treatment operators closely control and monitor the dosage and residual of liquid sodium hypochlorite solution (bleach) that is added to the finished water prior to distribution to our customers.

**How Long Has U.S. Drinking Water Been Chlorinated?**

Chlorine has helped provide safe drinking water in the United States for more than 100 years.

**How Common Is Chlorine Disinfection of Drinking Water?**

Chlorine is by far the most commonly used drinking water disinfectant in all regions of the world. Today, about 98 percent of U.S. water treatment systems use some type of chlorine disinfection process to help provide safe drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) that public treated tap water contain a detectable level of chlorine to protect against potential contaminants as it flows from the treatment plant to consumers' taps.

**Is Chlorine in Drinking Water Safe?**

The small amount of chlorine added to disinfect drinking water in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations is safe for consumption. According to the E.P.A., allowable chlorine levels in drinking water (up to 4 parts per million) pose "no known or expected health risk."

**How Long Will the Free Chlorination Process Last?**

This is a temporary process for approximately two weeks: September 23, 2019 through October 7, 2019.

**Is This the First Time the City of Plantation Has Used Free Chlorination?**

No. This is scheduled every year for approximately a two week period.

**Do Other Cities Perform Free Chlorination?**

Yes. This is a common industry practice. There are many utilities throughout the country that use chloramines as a distribution system disinfectant, which convert to free chlorine on a periodic basis.

**Does Free Chlorination Change or Affect Water Quality?**

No. The drinking water still meets all state and federal water quality standards.

**Will I Notice a Change in My Water?**

Some people may notice a change in the taste or odor during this time. Some U.S. utilities use free chlorine continuously without any adverse health effects.

**Why Does My Water Taste/Smell Differently?**

Your water may taste or smell differently because the City of Plantation is temporarily changing its disinfection process. From September 23, 2019 through October 7, 2019, there will be a change from chloramines (a combination of chlorine and ammonia) to chlorine only. Water systems using chloramines periodically change to chlorine as part of a maintenance program within the water distribution system.

**What Can I Do to Improve the Water Taste/Smell?**

We suggest storing water in an open pitcher and placing it in your refrigerator. The chlorine will naturally dissipate from the water, and will become less noticeable.

**Why Are You Doing This During This Time of the Year?**

The switch of primary disinfectants is most effective at this time of year. As part of our commitment to provide safe and reliable water, the Utilities plant staff monitors the water quality within the distribution system on a daily basis.

**What Are the Methods for Removing Chlorine/Chloramines from Fish Aquariums?**

Just as with chlorine, chloramines can harm all saltwater and freshwater fish, reptiles, shellfish, and amphibians that live in water. Commercial establishments and fish hobbyists need to take precautions.

There are two methods that can be used to remove or neutralize chloramines before adding water to a fish tank, pond, or aquarium: (1) granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system specifically designed to remove chloramines; or (2) conditioner or additive that contains a dechlorinating chemical for both ammonia and chlorine. These products are available at local pet and aquarium supply stores. The residential and commercial fish owners are advised to verify which method is best for them with their pet store or aquatic/aquarium retailer.