

## **Jasmine Lakes Water Supply and Disinfectant Changes**

### ***Important Info for Kidney Dialysis Patients and Fish Tank Owners***

Effective Monday, March 4, 2024, at 9 a.m., Pasco County Utilities and its regional water system will be supplying water to the Jasmine Lakes neighborhood of Port Richey. This transition will improve reliability and includes a change in disinfectant from free chlorine to chloramines.

This is especially important information for customers who:

- Use Kidney Dialysis equipment
- Maintain saltwater and freshwater fish tanks or ponds

Chloramines **MUST BE REMOVED** from water before you use it in either of these instances. Chloramine is a disinfectant combining chlorine with ammonia in the treatment process. Chloramine and chlorine are disinfectants that destroy potentially harmful bacteria in drinking water.

### **Kidney Dialysis**

- Kidney dialysis patients can safely drink, cook and bathe in chloraminated water.
- Chloramines are only harmful if they directly enter the bloodstream.
- Since water is exposed to the bloodstream during hemodialysis, very strict water purification standards are already followed by the kidney dialysis industry.
- Water purification techniques used for kidney dialysis are designed to remove both chlorine and chloramines.
- Industry standards require that a nurse, technician or trained caregiver test for both chlorine and chloramines after the purification process to ensure these chemicals have been removed from the water before using in a dialysis machine.
- All kidney dialysis patients, even those receiving treatments from a trained relative or caregiver at home, must be under the care of a kidney dialysis center.
- All centers in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas counties, as well as hospitals with acute dialysis facilities, have been informed about the addition of chloramines.

### **Fish, Aquatic Life & Pets**

- Chloramines must be removed from any water used for saltwater and freshwater fish tanks or ponds.
- Fish and other aquatic animals, like Koi, lobster, shrimp, frogs, turtles, snails, clams and live coral, take chloramines directly from the water into their bloodstreams mainly through their gills.

- Water conditioners designed for removing both chlorine and chloramines are commercially available.
- Pet stores or pet suppliers can provide information on de-chloramination products and instruction.
- While chlorine may evaporate, chloramines will not dissipate in this manner, and specific treatment is required.

### **Other Questions:**

#### **Is chloraminated water safe for my dog or cat?**

Yes.

#### **Is chloraminated water safe for my swimming pool?**

- Yes. No additional treatment should be necessary.
- You may notice a slight increase in chlorine demand. If you add chloraminated tap water to your pool, just add a little extra chlorine to maintain your typical level.
- Always follow your pool dealer's recommendation for proper pool maintenance and water chemistry.

#### **Will I notice a difference in the taste or odor of my water?**

- When chloramines are used instead of chlorine, most people report an improvement in the way their drinking water tastes and smells because they no longer detect chlorine in the water.

#### **Will I notice anything else?**

- During the conversion process, temporary impacts may be noticed in isolated areas as the chloraminated water is introduced into the distribution system.
- Some customers may notice a temporary variation in water color, as well as possible sediment in the water for a day or two.
- These temporary impacts to water quality are normal and occur when routine flushing maintenance is performed on the water distribution system. These will stop as the system stabilizes.
- Most problems can usually be resolved by running cold tap water for two to three minutes.
- In certain areas, you might notice flushing of the water system at fire hydrants and other locations, which will help prepare the system for the change.

#### **Who else uses chloramines?**

- In Florida, chloramines are used by at least 30 water utilities – including the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg, New Port Richey – and Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

Please contact us with questions or concerns:

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