



## St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*No. 2020 – 06*

23 March, 2020  
California, MD.

### **Metropolitan Commission Operational Status COVID-19 - 03.23.2020**

California, MD (March 23, 2020) - The health of everyone in our community is of paramount concern to us. In an effort to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19, protect the health and safety of our employees, customers, and the citizens, the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission would like the public to be aware of the following additional measures being implemented:

- As a part of the phased scaling back of operations, effective Monday March 23, 2020, construction inspection, plan / plat review services, and non-emergency Miss Utility locates will be discontinued until further notice.
- Unless determined to be mission critical, all capital construction projects will be handled under a force majeure event and work may be suspended.
- Septage hauling operations at Marlay Taylor Water Reclamation Facility will be discontinued at noon, daily. In the event of an emergency, haulers may contact our Wastewater Superintendent at 240.298.4451.
- We will maintain all our core critical functions at our treatment and water distribution facilities, labs and in our field maintenance operations, with social gathering and distancing protocols. Our field professionals remain available and are always on stand-by to address emergencies 24/7. For emergencies, please contact us at 301.737.7400.

Additionally, during the shortage of resources prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to remember that many materials that may be flushed or poured down the toilet or sink drain can harm the pipes that connect to sewers as well as the wastewater treatment facilities.

The only things which should ever be flushed a toilet are human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper. **Even though some products such as wipes and baby diapers claim to be flushable, they are not.** Here is a helpful reminder list of things to keep out of the toilet: disposable diapers, tampons and tampon applicators, sanitary napkins, cotton balls and swabs, mini or maxi pads, condoms, cleaning wipes of any kind, facial tissue, dental floss, bandages and bandage wrappings, automotive fluids, paint, solvents, sealants and thinners, poisons and hazardous waste, pet waste, etc. Remember the three Ps – poo, pee and paper are the only flushable items!

We appreciate the understanding and support of our customers and thank you for your patience. These were difficult decisions for our team, but ones we feel were both necessary and appropriate. If you have questions about COVID-19, visit the SMCHD website, [www.smchd.org/coronavirus](http://www.smchd.org/coronavirus) for local updates and information or call the St. Mary's County COVID-19 Community Hotline, Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at (301) 475-4911.

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