



BIRMINGHAM  
WATER WORKS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Press Release

### **Birmingham Water Works to Halt Service Disconnections due to Coronavirus**

*Preventative measure against spreading the virus goes into effect immediately*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (March 11, 2020)- Effective immediately, Birmingham Water Works (BWW) is temporarily suspending collections on delinquent accounts to ensure all customers have access to clean water during the pandemic of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), until further notice. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) along with several medical professionals are urging the public to take precautions to help prevent the spread of the virus, which includes proper hygiene practices.

“We’re being told that one of the main preventive measures we need to take right now is constant hand washing,” says BWW Spokesperson Rick Jackson. “We do not want any of our customers or those visiting the area to feel uneasy about being properly prepared when it comes to safeguarding their families due to the fact that they can’t afford to pay their water bill at the moment.”

The utility is joining the efforts of other government agencies and municipalities across the nation, including the City of Birmingham which makes up approximately 44 percent of the total customer accounts with majority living at or below poverty level. “We appreciate the stance Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin has already taken on this matter, and we’d like to be good stewards of the community by bringing some relief to thousands of people during this time,” says BWW General Manager Michael Johnson.

Although collections are temporarily suspended, customers are still responsible for the consumption used over time and are urged to continue making payments on their account.

Birmingham Water Works officials would also like to ensure the public that there is currently no threat of Coronavirus disease contamination in the water supply.

*Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works Board serves 600,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network; it ranked among the top five water systems in the United States.*

*For more information about the Birmingham Water Works Board, media inquiries, or tours of our museum, please call 205-244-4000 or visit [www.bwwb.org](http://www.bwwb.org).*

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