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MEDIA RELEASE

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MSD celebrates World Toilet Day—November 19— with advice about how to keep your plumbing in working order

LOUISVILLE, KY – MSD is celebrating World Toilet Day—November 19—with useful advice to keep your plumbing in working order. The COVID-19 pandemic still has more people flushing at home. But, unfortunately, when people flush inappropriate items, it causes big problems for MSD’s sewer system and wastewater treatment process, and affects the plumbing in homes and businesses.

So-called “flushable” wipes are an issue for MSD every day, but folks staying at home more seem to be causing a jump in those backups. On a typical day pre-COVID-19 pandemic, MSD would see about 8-9 backups. Now, we see nearly double that number of residential sewer backups a day.

Brian Bingham, MSD Chief Operations Officer, says, “Wipes do not break down, even if their labels read ‘flushable.’ They twist, becoming stronger in a mass—blocking sewer lines and damaging pumps.” Wipes cause about 60 percent of the clogs that MSD employees must repair daily.

Ways to keep your toilet and plumbing in working order, plus avoid a sewer backup

MSD urges residents only to flush the “three Ps—pee, poo and toilet paper. Prevent a sewer backup into your home by tossing your wipes, dental floss, hair, paper towels, tissues, and anything that is not one of the “three Ps”—into the trash, not the toilet.

If you do experience a sewer backup, make MSD your first call at 502.540.6000. If the problem is in our system, we will fix it at no charge to you.

Background

Every day, Louisville MSD receives more than 155 million gallons of water and waste flushed down drains and toilets across our service area. Our job is to treat that wastewater and return it to local waterways and the Ohio River—protecting our environment and the health and safety of all Louisville-area residents.

MSD maintains more than 3,300 miles of sewer lines. There are pumps along the way that push the wastewater to one of our water quality treatment centers. Unfortunately, wipes and other items such as

dental floss and hair can clog pumps in the collection system pipes and at the treatment centers. These clogs can cause backups into homes and businesses and are time-consuming and costly to repair.

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

What: Interview with MSD Water Quality Treatment Center Operator

When: Friday, November 19 at 10 AM

Where: MSD Cedar Creek Water Quality Treatment Center
8405 Cedar Creek Road, 40291

Click here to download images of MSD wastewater treatment facilities and our Bowl Patrol—characters who promote safe flushing.

<https://www.webcargo.net/l/OFgvpKsktr/>



About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 680 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro, and wastewater service in portions of Oldham County. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.