



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

326 WEST MARION AVENUE

PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

Telephone: (941) 575-3394

Fax: (941) 575-3310

[mreichert@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:mreichert@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2023

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**City of Punta Gorda Utilities to Temporarily Change Water Disinfection Process**

The City of Punta Gorda Utilities Department, in conjunction with the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, will temporarily change the disinfection process for its potable (drinking) water supply. From March 15, 2023, through May 14, 2023, the water will be disinfected with free chlorine rather than chlorine combined with ammonia (chloramines). This conversion to free chlorine from chloramines allows the utility to perform a distribution system purge as recommended by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for water utilities using chloramines as their primary disinfectant.

A “free chlorine conversion”, as it is known, is a common practice by public water systems that use chloramines to periodically increase the level of disinfectant residual throughout the distribution system.

City of Punta Gorda Utilities water will REMAIN SAFE TO DRINK throughout this process and boiling water is not necessary. Customers may notice a change to the taste and smell from the water. The water may discolor laundered clothes. Homeowners should flush any cloudy or discolored water that may enter the plumbing by running a faucet for several minutes or until the water runs clear. For information on preventing waterborne germs, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/preventing-waterborne-germs-at-home.html>.

Customers on kidney dialysis who use a proportioning machine to prepare dialysate at home are advised to contact their physician or equipment supplier to obtain the appropriate steps to accommodate the change in water disinfection and to install the proper filtering devices, if needed.

Customers using the water for aquariums should monitor the chlorine residuals and are advised to contact a professional aquarist to ensure proper pretreatment of the water before adding or changing the water in the tank to avoid any problems associated with chlorine.

The utility will flush the water distribution system in conjunction with this change in the process. The flush will allow the free chlorine to move quickly throughout the distribution system.

For information regarding the “free chlorine conversion” contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Brooke.Keck@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Brooke.Keck@FloridaDEP.gov)

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