



Saint Louis County

Planning and Community Development Department
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

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Director

On-Site Wastewater Inspections During the COVID-19 Outbreak

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If you have received this email, you are a contractor in the Saint Louis County database. The purpose of this communication is to explain how the Saint Louis County On-Site Wastewater division will respond to inspections for septic system installation requests during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Saint Louis County On-Site Wastewater division is committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. We are committed to providing the community with the services they expect and need.

While the Government Services Buildings are closed to the public, On-Site Wastewater will continue conducting the SSTS inspection services necessary to administer Ch. 7080 and Ordinance 61.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Saint Louis County has implemented employee education and practices aimed at reducing the spread of infectious disease, such as increased attention to hand hygiene, hand washing and sanitizing, cough and sneeze etiquette, social distancing, staying home when sick, and the shutdown of County building facilities. County employees are expected to observe these measures. We ask that our partners in the construction industry, business owners and homeowners commit to the recommended measures for limiting transmission of the virus.

On-Site Wastewater Environmental Specialists are providing inspection services for required inspections at jobsites and residences that provide a safe environment. We do ask that you allow more lead time than usual to schedule an inspection. As soon as you know when you will need an inspection, call your Environmental Specialist to schedule it at least 24 hours and preferably 48 hours or more ahead of time. A safe environment for inspections includes the following:

- Social distance of at least six feet provided throughout the work site, including at the point of inspection. We ask that as few people as possible occupy the inspection area.
- Workers, residents, and other occupants known to be sick or showing symptoms of a cold or the flu must be isolated from inspectors throughout the site.

When an inspection is requested, the inspector will ask the person requesting the inspection whether specific jobsite safety practices are in place before scheduling an inspection.

In order to minimize opportunities for spread of infectious disease during the COVID-19 outbreak by limiting social contact, inspectors are authorized to be situationally flexible, limiting inspections to only those absolutely necessary and, when possible and practical, using photos, video, and other methods to observe and document that work is compliant with code requirements.

On-Site Wastewater is committed above all to the health and safety of the community. The COVID-19 outbreak presents challenges to all of us as we work to build a safe community. Working together, we can keep construction projects moving forward while doing our best to reduce risks of the spread of the disease.

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