

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES

Certain measures are in place providing relief to ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review this message in its entirety. For more information please contact Kathy Schools, Utilities Clerk at (856) 848-2832 or email utilitiesclerk@bwhnj.com.

SERVICE SHUTOFF MORATORIUM

BE ADVISED that New Jersey's current law prohibits a local government from shutting off water service to a residential customer, or to accounts primarily serving residential customers, due to nonpayment of water or sewer charges unless the disconnection is to prevent or ameliorate a risk to public health or safety. **This shutoff moratorium remains in effect until March 15, 2022.**

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY AND LIEN ENFORCEMENT MORATORIUM

BE ADVISED that, until **March 15, 2022**, the State of New Jersey places a moratorium on local governments enforcing late payment charges and penalties on water accounts, or referring a delinquent water payment to tax sale. On or after **March 15, 2022**, charges and penalties may be imposed for delinquent payments, and any payments remaining delinquent may be referred to a tax lien sale held by the municipal tax collector.

BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is currently developing a Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This program is designed to assist water and sewer customers facing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information will be provided once the program goes live.

OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY ARREARAGES IN INSTALLMENTS

BE ADVISED that residents experiencing economic hardship during COVID-19 and who are behind on their water or sewer payments may be eligible to enter into an agreement whereby the resident agrees to pay their arrearages in installments over a 12- month period. As part of the agreement, the resident must keep up to date on all current charges. For more information on repaying arrearages in installments, please contact Kathy Schools, Utilities Clerk at 856-848-2832 or email utilitiesclerk@bwhnj.com for specific information on deferred payment agreements.