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## **MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM – COVID 19**

With families at home more, the demand on septic systems has increased drastically. It is the homeowner's responsibility to know and understand when their septic system needs attention.

### **Things to Watch For**

Due to the season, we are experiencing a spring high water table. The ground is saturated with winter snow, spring rain and run off. This means the ground under your grass is full of water and through using your septic system, we are trying to put more water into the ground. While operating a septic system under these conditions, you may experience the following;

### **Signs Your Septic System Is Overloaded**

- Your drains empty slowly or gurgle for reasons other than old, clogged pipes
- When you flush your toilet, it bubbles back, or you hear a sink nearby bubbling
- Sewage backs up into your house
- A spot on your lawn that is wet or spongy and you're not willing to step in
- There is standing and/or running water out on your lawn when someone is showering
- The grass over or around your septic is greener than the rest of your lawn

An overloaded septic system does not allow solids to adequately settle and limits necessary bacterial activity. This increases the risk of solids moving into and clogging the drain field, which can reduce the septic tank's efficiency or lead to a complete breakdown of the system.

### **What You Can Do to Help Your Septic**

- Slow down on the water use
- When showering - *get in and get out*
- Do one load of laundry a day and only wash essential clothing items
- Don't leave faucets running while you wash your hands or brush your teeth

If you are experiencing standing or running water from your septic tank or drain field, you must pump your tank to take the load off your system before there is severe damage done. Remember, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure their septic system is maintained properly.