



## Department of Building and Zoning Services

### For Immediate Release

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### Replacement Furnace and Water Heater Inspections to begin on May 11, 2020

(Columbus – May 15, 2020) – Replacement furnace and water heater inspections can begin to be scheduled May 11th, 2020. Residential occupancies that are unoccupied will continue to be inspected using our normal inspection procedures, but occupied residential occupancies will be done via a virtual inspection using one of several available live media streaming options. When performing replacement inspections of occupied residences during the COVID-19 Emergency the following protocol will be observed:

1. Inspectors will contact the customer prior to the inspection and ask if someone in the home has a fever ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ ) or flu-like symptoms. If the answer is yes, the inspection will be cancelled and noted accordingly in the comments of the inspection results.
2. Only one person will be permitted to greet and accompany the inspector and must wear a face covering. If the home owner refuses to wear a face covering, they must remove themselves from the inspection area and allow the contractor to handle the inspection, or it will not be performed.
3. The customer or contractor will be asked to open doors to the inspection and maintain social distancing at all times. If the 6 foot distancing is not possible, the customer will be asked to remove themselves from the area once all doors are opened.
4. Inspectors will also be required to wear a face covering.

For inspections that cannot be performed due to the health condition of the customer or refusal of the customer to follow the protocol, they may be rescheduled at a later date.

The Department of Building and Zoning Services supports the safety and quality of life for City of Columbus residents and visitors alike. Helping to build a better city through the processes of reviews,

permitting, inspections, zoning and engineering ensures proper land development and promotes high-quality design standards.