



Drinking Water Program
One Winter Street – 5th Floor; Boston, MA 02108
Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

The Drinking Water Updates can be found on-line at:
mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers
or at the Statehouse Archives at : <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-07-02

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. MassDEP COVID-19 Information
 - MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
 - MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls
 2. Cloth Face Masks
 3. CDC and EPA Coronavirus Websites
 4. Biweekly Drinking Water Update Email
 5. ASR Deadline was July 1
 6. CCR Deadline was July 1
 7. Reporting Raw Water Sampling
 8. Section 70 Report to the Legislature for 2019
 9. 2021 State Revolving Fund Loan Program
 10. CWT Accepting Comments on WIFTA
 11. Grant Opportunities
 12. EPA Takes Action to Stop Certain PFAS in Products
 13. EPA Capacity Development Handbook
 14. EPA OECA Rescinds Enforcement Discretion Memo, Effective August 31, 2020
 15. Sustainable Management of Rural and Small Systems - Workshop
 16. MassDEP LCR Training
 17. Training Calendar
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MassDEP COVID-19 Information

For all information go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

Sign-up for the state messaging tool called “AlertsMA” which sends real-time notifications of COVID-19 alerts. To subscribe to these real-time notifications text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777**. After signing up, you will receive short messages and links to information on your cell phone or other mobile device.

Masks and Face Coverings: On May 1, Governor Baker issued an order requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public situations when appropriate social distancing measures are not possible. [Order](#) | [Guidance](#)

Phase 2 - Re-opening Massachusetts

Until a treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 is available, life will not return to normal. We each have a collective responsibility to ensure that reopening proceeds smoothly and safely. Everyone must follow public health directives and use common sense to protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and vulnerable populations across the Commonwealth.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

MassDEP Public Water Supply Information

MassDEP is coordinating with the water supply industries, agencies, and organizations to provide information about the impacts of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Water Suppliers Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- [Bacteria sampling at outside taps/spigots/hose bibs](#) (PDF 97 KB)
- [Bacteria sampling at hydrants using hydrant sampler](#) (PDF 87 KB)
- [Mitigating lead and copper levels in facilities after school closure due to COVID-19](#) (PDF 115 KB)
- Emergency Certification for Public Water System Temporary Closure (Non-Operational Status) For Non-Community (TNC/NTNC) public water suppliers ([Word 40KB](#)) ([PDF 149 KB](#))
- Drinking Water Operator license Extension Guidance during the public health emergency <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-regarding-the-orders-by-the-governor-extending-certain-occupational-and>
- Mass DEP Building Flushing Information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information>
- Form to document non-compliance related to COVID-19 <https://www.mass.gov/doc/documentation-for-failure-to-comply-with-a-requirement-as-a-result-of-the-covid-19-emergency>
- Existing Flexibilities under the SDWA <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/existing-flexibilities-under-safe-drinking-water-act>

MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is now holding *bimonthly* (every two weeks) Zoom conference calls to all operators and interested parties. Here is a link to MassDEP's webpage, where recordings of Commissioner Suuberg's calls with the operators as well as FAQs for both water supply and wastewater are published: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-information-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-operators>. MassDEP will continue to populate this webpage with other relevant information related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

Topic: Commissioner's COVID Call with Public Water Suppliers

Time: Jul 14, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

NEW ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85684758547>

Meeting ID: 856 8475 8547

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,85684758547# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85684758547# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 856 8475 8547

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kerxSMCbXE>

Cloth Masks

Thanks to both the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Massachusetts received 60,000 cloth masks that were distributed to drinking water and wastewater systems across the Commonwealth.

With the help of so many partners, **56,865** masks have been distributed to over **402** facilities. MassDEP is grateful to you all for helping to plan and execute this operation. We especially appreciate the extraordinary efforts of the eight facilities that operated as distribution points for the masks as well as the several other facilities and partners who picked up masks for delivery to others:

- Barnstable Department of Public Works
- Brewster Water Department
- Brockton Advanced Water Reclamation Facility (AWRF)
- Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD)
- Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility (LRWU)
- Massachusetts Rural Water Association (MRWA)
- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
- New Bedford Department of Public Works
- Resources for Communities and People (RCAP) Solutions
- Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC)
- Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (UBWPAD)



MassDEP thanks you all for helping to ensure the safety of the Commonwealth's operators.

CDC and EPA Coronavirus Websites

During the coronavirus pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have worked hand in hand to ensure the American Public has the information they need to stay informed with respect to using water resources. The CDC recently posted a [new coronavirus website for sanitation and wastewater workers](#). Additionally, EPA regularly updates its [coronavirus website](#), which provides information on drinking water and wastewater. In addition to information for the general public, this website includes resources for state, local, and tribal agencies and intergovernmental associations. Having fully operational drinking water and wastewater services is critical during the COVID-19 national health emergency. EPA supports our nation's water and wastewater employees who help protect human health and the environment every single day.

Biweekly Drinking Water Update Email

Governor Baker just announced that Massachusetts' seven day average is 1.9% for COVID-19 cases. Solid progress is being made and thus opening up Massachusetts will continue. With this information MassDEP Drinking Water Program will now go back to biweekly (two times a month) Drinking Water Updates. Please continue to social distance and to wear face masks to keep this seven-day average low.

Remember using Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov will get you the quickest response to any question you may have. This email is checked daily. No matter how big or how small your inquiries are, they will be answered.

ASR – July 1 Deadline

The deadline for submitting your Annual Statistical Report was July 1. As of June 29: 1,384 systems submitted their ASR, 17 were submitted but not signed, 123 systems had works in progress, and 108 have not started their ASR.

If you have any questions about your ASR or need assistance to complete your ASR submission please contact Andrew.Durham@mass.gov or Tio.Yano@mass.gov for assistance.

CCR – July 1 Deadline

For community systems only: The deadline for submitting your Consumer Confidence Report was July 1. Due to the high influx of CCR submissions on July 1, we are not able to have numbers to report as of this writing. Since it is a federal regulation, MassDEP must adhere to the July 1 deadline and cannot extend it. Any CCRs that were not in MassDEP on July 1 are in non-compliance with state and federal regulations.

For non-community systems only: MassDEP is in the process of making all non-community water quality reports. They will soon be available at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/public-water-supplier-document-search>. When they are posted we will notify you and you are required to find your report, print it, sign it, and post it in conspicuous places for all your customers/employees to see. Remember, we will alert you when these reports have been posted on line.

Reporting Raw Water Sampling

This question came into the Program Director email. The Drinking Water Program thinks it would serve as a good reminder for others.

Q: If a PWS tests for contaminants other than what is listed on their sample schedule do they have to report it to MassDEP? If they test raw water does it need to be reported?

A: If a PWS tests for contaminants other than what is listed on their sample schedule, or as otherwise specified by MassDEP Drinking Water Regulations or in writing, the test would be considered special purpose samples and in accordance with 310 CMR 22.03 (11) “The Department may require that special purpose samples collected by a Supplier of Water and analyzed by a certified laboratory using approved methods as specified at 310 CMR 42.00: *Certification and Operation of Environmental Analysis Laboratories* be used to determine compliance with the applicable MCL”. Also, in general, raw or untreated water sources are not routinely tested as the requirements under both the state and federal drinking water regulations seek to ensure that the water being delivered, at the entrance point to the distribution system, for consumption by the public, meets all the relevant standards. If a public water system is voluntarily sampling its untreated water or if MassDEP has reason to require this action, these tests would be required to be reported to MassDEP and they would be entered into our database that is the source for our public portal.

To search the public portal go to: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/Portal/#!/home>
Click *search data by category*, click *facilities*, add in some parameters and click *search*.

Section 70 Report to the Legislature for 2019

The Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Advisory Committee’s Report to the Legislature for 2019 is available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee>. The Committee’s 26th Annual Report includes a summary of the work completed by MassDEP’s Drinking Water Program (DWP) to support Public Water Systems (PWS), DWP priorities and a list of Committee members.

The Assessment, which is based on water use reported by PWS on the Annual Statistical Report, generates about \$2 million each year to fund DWP staff who provide training and technical and compliance assistance to PWS.

The Committee has broad representation across all sizes and types of PWS. Public meetings to review the Assessment Program are scheduled four times a year. More information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee> and by contacting program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

2021 State Revolving Fund Loan Project Solicitation

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is pleased to announce that the solicitation period for new drinking water and wastewater projects seeking financing through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program is now open. MassDEP, Division of Municipal Services, will accept Project Evaluation Forms (PEFs) for the 2021 round of financing **until 12:00 PM, August 21, 2020**. There are no significant changes to the PEFs for 2021. The rating criteria remain the same. Please see the **attached** PDF for more information.

CWT Accepting Comments on the Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA)

The **Massachusetts Clean Water Trust is accepting public comments on the implementation of the Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA) until August 6th, 2020**. WIFTA allows the state revolving fund to transfer funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to provide additional subsidy to projects focusing on lead remediation. Please see the **attached** document for specifics on the proposed transfer and information regarding the public comment period. Also, the information can be found on the Trust's website at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/the-massachusetts-clean-water-trust>.

Grant Opportunities

MA DOER's Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants

Up to \$12,500 per applicant - due August 20, 2020

This grant will conduct technical assessment services for energy efficiency and clean energy projects at municipal drinking water and wastewater facilities (plants and pumping stations). This is a great opportunity to get your energy assessment done for future implementation.

MA EOEEA's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning Grants.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until 4 pm, **Friday, August 7, 2020**. Visit the [MVP website](#) for more information and links to application materials.

Please review **attached** PDF for more information.

Note: Please consider joining MA DOER's Email List to receive future updates directly.

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/subscribe-to-doer-email-lists>

EPA Takes Action to Stop Certain PFAS in Products

As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) Action Plan](#), EPA is issuing a final rule giving the agency the authority to review an expansive list of products containing PFAS before they could be manufactured, sold, or imported in the United States. This action, issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), means that EPA is prohibiting companies from manufacturing, processing, or importing products containing certain long-chain PFAS, which persist in the environment and can cause adverse health effects, without prior EPA review and approval. As part of the agency's review, EPA could place restrictions on these products to protect public health. Click below to read the full press release:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-stop-use-certain-pfas-products-and-protect-american-consumers>

EPA Capacity Development Handbook

Even though this handbook is intended for EPA and State CapDev program coordinators, it provides comprehensive guidance to understand state requirements to best aid capacity development programs. The handbook summarizes the capacity development provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), including state and regional responsibilities, tools that can be used to help public water systems develop technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity, and links between Capacity Development programs and other SDWA initiatives. The EPA Regional CapDev Coordinator Handbook is now available on the EPA webpage at <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/regional-capacity-development-coordinator-handbook>.

EPA OECA Rescinds Enforcement Discretion Memo, Effective August 31, 2020

In a memo dated June 29, 2020 OECA rescinded the March enforcement discretion memo effective August 31, 2020. The memo states that the “temporary policy terminates in its entirety at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time, August 31, 2020. This means that the EPA will not base any exercise of enforcement discretion on this temporary policy for any noncompliance that occurs after August 31, 2020. In addition, the EPA may terminate this temporary policy (i.e., indicate it does not apply to future noncompliance) on a state or national basis, in whole or in part, at any earlier time, taking into account changing conditions in a state or region of the country, including as appropriate the expiration or lifting of “stay at home” orders in a state, the status of federal and/or state COVID19 public health emergency guidelines, and/or other relevant factors or considerations. In order to provide fair and sufficient notice to the public, the EPA will provide notification at least seven days

prior, if it terminates this temporary policy prior to August 31, 2020, either nationally or at a more local level, in whole or in part”.

This rescission memo will remove any enforcement discretion provided by MassDEP to Public Water Suppliers for federal drinking water violations, effective August 31, 2020. See the MassDEP FAQ for PWS, for information on COVID-19 related federal enforcement discretion at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-covid-19-faqs-for-public-water-suppliers-0/download> .

The OECA memo can be found on this webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/enforcement-policy-guidance-publications> and link: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-06/documents/covid19addendumontermination.pdf>.

Sustainable Management of Rural and Small Systems

Workshop - Thursday July 16 and Thursday Jul 23
9:00 am to 11:00 am

This workshop presented by RCAP Solutions will show you how to conduct a self-assessment of your system and identify areas for improvement that are critical to success of your utility.

This is a two-day workshop and both days must be attended to receive the 4 TCHs.

See **attached** PDF.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/WIBJulyMA>

Any questions contact: Jim Starbard 978-502-0227 or jstarbard@rcapsolutions.org

MassDEP Lead and Copper Rule Sampling Training: From Planning through Documentation (3TCHs)

Join us on **July 15th, 2020** for the LCR online Training by registering

at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApdOypqjkqGNGtEwGb-BHqdT43t99p15V6> by **July 13th, 2020**

12:00AM.

- Please register no more than two staff per PWS or contract operator company.
- You must register with an email address with which you can be contacted after the training is complete. Please do not use an email address you do not check daily.
- This training must be taken on a computer or other electronic device (such as an iPad or tablet), and not only by telephone. Attendance will be monitored using tools only accessible on electronic devices. However, you are not required to use your computer camera (meaning you do not have to "show your face").

Agenda

8:45 a.m. Call open

9:00 a.m. Introduction/Overview
9:15 a.m. LCR Sampling Plan and Materials Survey Worksheet
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. LCR Sampling Requirements and Forms
12:00 p.m. Q&A and Evaluation
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Contacts for Questions

For questions about the training agenda or subject matter, contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: LCR Training


Training Calendar

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

or click here:  **YouTube**

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.
