



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

The Drinking Water Updates can be found on-line at: <https://mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers>

or at the Statehouse Archives at: <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



Wellfleet Drive In, Credit: Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism

Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-07-17

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. Recommendations for Lead and Copper (LCR) Sampling in Closed or Low Flow Operating School Buildings
3. EPA Announces Release of Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool
4. EPA Announces \$6 Billion in New Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects
5. Meet Ben Joaquin
6. Correction: Reporting Raw Water Sampling
7. Training Calendar
8. Spam

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 3, Step 1 (as of July 6) - 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 28, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

NEW ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

Join Zoom Meeting

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://zoom.us/meeting/uJEtf-isqzstGhSf_beAtiSdfHxE-69rQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuytrjMrHtGVt1z9d7lvW4X-b-HyllZGmaVinhREffylgZgXeLsdGf-QmAumB

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

Meeting ID: 550 814 507

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,550814507# US (New York)

+13126266799,,550814507# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 550 814 507

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/anAJCjR7G>

Recommendations for Lead and Copper (LCR) Sampling in Closed or Low Flow Operating School Buildings.

This information is also applicable for Schools and Childcare Facilities with Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) Programs

Due to pandemic-related building closures, we recommend delaying school and early education and care facility sampling until the facilities re-open. See below for specific information.

Why issue recommendations for sampling in school buildings that have been closed during the pandemic or have low occupancy?

When fewer people are using a building's water system, the water in the building may become stagnant and the quality of the water can deteriorate. Conditions leading to stagnant water can cause a reduction in the residual concentration of disinfectant in the drinking water system (if the water is routinely disinfected), lead to corrosion of plumbing materials and increased concentrations of lead and copper.

Who should use these recommendations?

These recommendations are for public water systems (PWS) that are required under the LCR to sample at least two schools/EECFs during their scheduled monitoring period and schools and early education and care facilities (EECF) with voluntary sampling for lead under the LCCA. The PWS must ensure that the schools/EECFs are sampled while school is in session (two samples in two schools). **Therefore, due to the pandemic, sampling of schools/EECFs should be delayed until the facilities are re-opened.** PWSs can fulfill the schools/EECFs sampling requirement by adding the schools in the following monitoring period when the schools/EECFs are back to routine operations. School and childcare facilities that are closed should defer sampling until the schools or facilities are re-opened.

If a PWS needs/wants to take samples when a school is closed or operating with low flows, the PWS should provide the Drinking Water Program with its proposed plan for simulating routine school normal operation flows and lead and copper sampling procedures for review and approval before collecting samples. The proposed plan should be sent to program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: Lead in Schools.

See below for an example of what elements should be included in the PWS proposed plan for sampling when a school or childcare facility has low or no flow (closed).

Example of elements for a PWS proposed plan for sampling a school or childcare facility when a school or childcare facility has low or no flow (closed)

Lead and copper samples for schools/EECFs should be collected under normal operations after 8-18 hours of stagnation. To simulate normal usage in school buildings that have been closed for long periods or with low water flows, MassDEP recommends the PWS include the following steps in their proposed sampling plan:

1. Review the monthly water usage (from water bills) for the school/EECF building for the prior 2-3 years during the same period and calculate the average daily water usage for the period/time.
2. Locate all the building's main components. Water intake and hot and cold-water components.
3. Once you have the average water usage of the building, flush the entire system to simulate normal operation by following MassDEP's System Wide Flushing Guidance listed below. Make sure that the amount of water flushed is equal to the calculated average water use of the building for that period/time. Each drinking water outlet should be flushed individually. For example, flushing a toilet will not flush your water fountains.
4. Remember that flushing is performed with the general idea of bringing fresh water to all sections of the building. Water quality indicators such as temperature may be used, where possible, as indicators that fresh water has reached all fixtures within the plumbing system.
5. After flushing, let the water sit stagnant for 8-18 hours.
6. Take lead and copper samples by following MassDEP's sampling guidance located at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/sampling-for-lead-and-copper-at-schools-and-childcare-facilities>.

Resources see:

- MassDEP System Wide Flushing: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information/download>.
- EPA guidance on school flushing: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-09/documents/flushing_best_practices_factsheet_508.pdf.
- MassDEP free technical assistance and testing available for drinking water in schools and childcare facilities: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/technical-assistance-in-2020-for-lead-in-school-drinkingwater>.

If you have any questions please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: Lead in Schools.

EPA Announces Release of Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool

Water Utility Fiscal Year 2019 COVID-19 Financial Impact EPA

Revenue

What were your commercial/industrial revenues?	
What were your residential revenues?	
What were your wholesale revenues?	
What were your connection/tap fee revenues?	
What were your late fee revenues?	
What were your tax revenues, either directly or from a parent agency?	
What were your byproduct (e.g., biosolids, electricity, etc.) revenues?	
If you generate interest income from cash on hand, what were your interest revenues?	
If you had any additional revenue streams that have not been identified, what were the revenues?	
Total 2019 revenue	\$0.00

Expenses

What were your regular labor costs?	
What were your overtime labor costs?	
What were your expenses for purchasing water for resale?	
What were your expenses for wholesale wastewater treatment?	
What were your chemical costs?	
What were your disposal costs?	
What were your testing costs?	
How much was your electric bill?	
How much were your other utility bills?	
What were your supply costs?	

Water Utility 2020 COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool EPA

How to use the tool

- The Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool can be used to assess the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your utility's cashflow over the year.
- The spreadsheet has three sections: **Revenue**, **Expenses**, and **Cashflow**. It is intended to be used monthly, with a running total of the cashflow.
- First, work through the **Revenue** and **Expenses** sections to determine the changes to your income statement on a cash basis.
- Then, in the **Cashflow** section, make changes in your utility's cash position that would be included on an income statement. This will result in an estimated change in net cash.
- Due to the nature of COVID-19, communities have not necessarily been experiencing impacts at the same time. Guidance has been issued on Opening Up America Again, which could be useful information for your community. (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/opening-up-america/>)

How to use the tool

- Please make sure to **enable** the macros in this tool.
- The data table is an information entry point. Please note that these data are not required for you to input data into the tool. They merely serve as a guide.
- The tool will require data from the previous year and current year financials. You will need access to your utility's financial statements and having some accounting knowledge will be useful for filling out the tool.
- There are several questions in the tool, many of which will only appear depending on how you answer.
- The tool begins by entering data into the **2019 Data** tab. You will enter data using 2019's annual data to compare to the current month. The spreadsheet will automatically calculate the average monthly data before COVID-19. The tool will allow you to compare it to the 2020 revenue, expenses, and cashflow. If there is a line item that your utility does not track, enter 0.
- Once you are finished entering your 2020 data, return to the **introduction** tab and select the button for the specific month in 2020 to enter data.
- Next, you will answer **cashflow** questions in the month that you are entering data. If you answered yes, follow up questions will appear. The follow up questions will ask for specific dollar amounts to compare before and after COVID-19 events. Once you entered answers to the 2020 data, the 2020 data will automatically calculate. You will only need to enter the current month data. If there is a line item that your utility does not track, enter 0.
- The **Revenue**, **Expenses**, and **Cashflow** sections will automatically calculate the sum and changes in these sections. These results will be featured below.
- If you would like to keep track of when the data and when it was last updated, enter this information below.
- Please make sure to save the spreadsheet results to your computer before you close the tool.

This section serves as a placeholder to note any information that might be useful for your utility to track.

Date last updated:	
User created by:	
Name of utility:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
System Type:	
Enter year 2020 calendar:	
When did the impact of:	

2020 Results

	Total revenue changes due to COVID-19	Total expense changes due to COVID-19	Total net changes due to COVID-19	Total cashflow changes due to COVID-19
Year	2020	2020	2020	2020
Jan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Feb	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mar	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Apr	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

EPA released a new tool to help water utilities assess the financial impact of COVID-19 on operations. Throughout the COVID-19 national health emergency—and as communities across the country reopen—water utilities have reliably provided safe drinking water and critical wastewater services. This new tool will help provide important information about the financial and operational health of water utilities, which play an integral role in protecting human health and the environment for our nation.

“It’s important for water utilities to understand – as early as possible – how to carry out their responsibilities and plan reinvestment for their communities as local economies start to recover from COVID-19,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “This tool will support the financial resilience of water utilities today and into the future by providing in-depth insight into how operations during COVID-19 have affected their financial standing.”

Developed by EPA’s Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, the Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool leads water utilities through questions that can determine how their revenues, expenses and cashflow have been affected. This tool will help water utilities understand the financial health as they plan for ongoing operation and maintenance and capital infrastructure needs, including implementing plans to repair, replace and modernize aging infrastructure.

Visit the EPA website to access the [Water Utility COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool](#).

EPA Announces \$6 Billion in New Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects

Funding availability builds on 24 WIFIA loans issued under President Trump financing nearly \$12 billion in water infrastructure and creating 25,000 jobs

WASHINGTON (July 14, 2020) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the 2020 notice of funding availability under its Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program, including funding for the new State infrastructure financing authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. These funding programs accelerate investment in critical water infrastructure through innovative and flexible financing that can support diverse projects in both large and small communities. This year's funding will provide up to \$6 billion to support \$12 billion in water infrastructure projects while creating more than 35,000 jobs and improving public health and environmental protection in communities across the country.

“EPA’s WIFIA loan program has become one of the most effective tools used in President Trump’s efforts to upgrade our nation’s infrastructure, create jobs and safeguard public health and the environment,” **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. “This new round of \$6 billion in funding comes in time to help communities that are trying to recover from the health and financial stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and, for the first time, includes funding expressly available to states.” To date, EPA has issued 24 WIFIA loans totaling \$5.3 billion in credit assistance to help finance \$11.7 billion for water infrastructure projects while creating 25,000 jobs—including eight WIFIA loans closed and one refinanced from March 2020 through June 2020. These recent loan closings will save ratepayers over \$1 billion compared to typical bond financing while supporting the financial health of vital water systems. This financial support came at a critical time as the federal government, EPA and the water sector worked together to help mitigate the public health and financial impacts of COVID-19.

This announcement marks the fourth round of WIFIA funding. This year’s notice of funding availability prioritizes construction-ready projects in three areas: updating aging infrastructure; reducing exposure to lead and addressing emerging contaminants; and water reuse and recycling. The 2020 notice of funding availability builds upon the existing, active pipeline of WIFIA projects, which includes 49 projects in 19 states and D.C. For the first time, the agency will evaluate submitted projects using [additional criteria](#) that were developed to help clarify project and

federal budgetary considerations. EPA will accept letters of interest from prospective WIFIA borrowers for 90 days after publication in the Federal Register.

EPA is also, for the first time, providing funds under [SWIFIA](#). This new program, which was authorized by Congress as part of the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018, offers low-interest loans to state water infrastructure programs (e.g., the State Revolving Funds) that then help finance needed water infrastructure projects in local communities. This round of funding will provide SWIFIA borrowers up to \$1 billion to support \$2 billion in water infrastructure projects. EPA will accept letters of interest from state water infrastructure programs for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Background

Established by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, the WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program at EPA that aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

WIFIA credit assistance can be used for a wide range of projects, including:

- drinking water treatment and distribution projects;
- wastewater conveyance and treatment projects;
- enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities;
- desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects; and
- drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects.

EPA will evaluate proposed projects described in the letters of interest using WIFIA's statutory and regulatory criteria as described in the notice of funding availability. Through this competitive process, EPA will select projects that it intends to fund and invite them to continue the application process.

For more information about WIFIA and this funding announcement, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>.

Meet Ben Joaquin

My name is Ben, and I am a recent hire of the DEP working in the Drinking Water Program (DWP). In the summer of 2017, I was a volunteer intern for the DWP, researching PFAS and conducting GIS mapping. After graduating from the environmental program at the University of Vermont in 2018, I worked for a small government relations firm before beginning my environmental career at the DEP as the lead Transient Non-Community (TNC) Public Water Systems (PWS) staff person.

I've been on the job about two months now. I have mainly been providing support on a number of projects dealing with TNC PWS. So far, this work has included reviewing GIS maps, reaching out to PWSs for their ASRs, researching TNC issues, and attending related online seminars and workshops.

One of the primary projects I have been focusing on is creating a new special issue of the TNC Newsletter "In the Main." For this newsletter, I have been drafting a number of articles on various topics related to TNCs such as potential funding opportunities, updates on regulations, opening back up in the COVID-19 era, etc.

A project that I look forward to starting is a GIS project to overlay TNCs in Environmental Justice areas in Massachusetts with areas subject to flooding. I plan to provide the maps and data to our sanitary survey inspectors to help focus technical and compliance assistance and trainings for TNC PWS.

I'm looking forward to meeting you. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to help out or lessen anyone's workload. I'm excited to get started and begin my environmental career!

Correction: 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*.

Training Calendar

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

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:

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

Or click here:  YouTube

Spam

Please be reminded that official emails from MassDEP will never come from a Hotmail or any other personal account. If you receive an email of this nature, the email is spam. Do not click on the links, and delete it immediately. To safeguard yourself only click open emails that have XXXXX.XXXX@mass.gov.

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 mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html.
