



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



[https://www.flickr.com/photos/vecs\\_world/5128162031](https://www.flickr.com/photos/vecs_world/5128162031)

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Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-10-23

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

1. MassDEP Covid-19 Information
2. EPA COVID-19 Water Sector Survey
3. Free Cloth Masks – Round 3
4. EPA's COVID-19 Survey
5. Free PFAS Testing for PWS Reminder
- 6. DWP PFAS training: Save the Date**
7. Sodium Reporting
8. Lawmakers Focus on Connecticut River's Significance
9. 2020 SDWA Assessment Rate Information
10. Webinar: Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts
11. Webinar: Improving Financial Reporting
12. Training

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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 3, Step 2 (as of October 5, 2020) - 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](#) Updated 10/5/2020
- [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>
- MassDEP 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>
- Information on Training for Public Water Suppliers <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drinking-water-training>

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Reminder: Please note that during the COVID-19 pandemic that MassDEP staff are generally working remotely. MassDEP-DWP cannot guarantee that posted hardcopy submittals will be delivered or

received as expected. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to use eDEP, if available, for water quality monitoring reporting or if you mail in reports to also submit a PDF copy of the report by email to [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov). The subject line should include the PWSID, City/Town and type of report (e.g. 3035000 Boston Bacteria Report). Continue to mail the official hardcopy to the appropriate MassDEP Regional office but indicate on the cover letter or similar enclosure that the report(s) was sent in via email and include the date of the email.

## MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is now holding monthly 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.

### **These calls are now on a monthly schedule**

**The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 2 PM.** Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

### Zoom Meeting Information

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-HyllZGmaVinhREfYlgZgXeLsdGf-QmAumB](https://zoom.us/join?url=https://zoom.us/join?url=https://zoom.us/meeting/uJEtf-isqzstGhSf-beAtiSdfHxE-69rQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuytrjMrHtGVt1z9d7lvW4X-b-HyllZGmaVinhREfYlgZgXeLsdGf-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/j/550814507>

## EPA COVID-19 Information

EPA COVID-19 <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

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## Free Cloth Masks – Round 3

MassDEP and its partners successfully distributed over 56,000 cloth masks received through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and US EPA at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in May and June 2020 for essential public water systems (PWS) and wastewater operators in need. Thanks to the generosity of the state of New Hampshire, a third round of cloth mask distribution is being offered again to continue supporting safe operations.

If your system is currently in need of cloth masks or is planning for future need, please reserve masks for your system by completing the survey form at this link: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/drinking-water-and-wastewater-sector-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-distribution-survey> as soon as possible, but by November 6, 2020. Please submit only one survey response per utility or contract operations firm. \*

\*PWSs that already submitted cloth mask requests through email to MassDEP's Program Director in September 2020 do not need to complete the form again (your information has already been processed by MassDEP). If you have any questions about cloth mask availability, please contact Kristin Divris at [Kristin.Divris@mass.gov](mailto:Kristin.Divris@mass.gov) or 508-887-0021.

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## EPA's COVID-19 Survey

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just released a voluntary COVID-19 survey to help assess the economic and operational challenges faced by the nation's water and wastewater systems as a result of COVID-19. This is a voluntary survey which hopes to identify the severity of the past, current, and future challenges faced by water utilities and hopes to collect information that would facilitate planning for a rapid response, if necessary, should there be significant future challenges due to COVID-19.

The survey which was recently sent to selected DW and WW utilities is voluntary but is hoped for broad participation throughout not only Massachusetts but also the rest of the country. EPA has randomly chosen these utilities from statistical groupings which are based on population served, system type (i.e., drinking water or wastewater), and jurisdiction (i.e., state-regulated, American Indian, and Alaska Native Village utilities). The survey also includes at least one utility from each state and territory to ensure wide geographic representation.

To see the 42 drinking water facilities and the 21 wastewater facilities in Massachusetts that EPA has chosen please look at the attached Word document.

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## Free PFAS Testing for PWS Reminder

Has your PWS signed up for a round of free PFAS sampling? Thanks to all the PWS that have signed up early.

The new PFAS regulations took effect on October 2, 2020, establishing a drinking water standard, or a maximum contaminant level (MCL), for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). All PWSs will be required to sample starting next year, see the PFAS Drinking Water Regulations [Quick Reference Guide](#) for details.

Taking advantage of the free sampling now will save your PWS approximately \$300 per sample. if needed, you will also be able to apply for grants or loans to install PFAS treatment which will only be available for a limited time.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/forms/pfas-free-sampling-initiative-notice-of-interest-form-for-public-water-systems> to sign up for the Free PFAS Lab Analyses Program, or send a request with the information described in the survey (e.g., PWS name, PWS ID#, number of sources already tested, number of sources to be tested, and system population) to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov), Subject: "Free PFAS Lab Analyses Program - Sampling questions".

If you have any questions about PFAS or the **free** PFAS sampling program for PWS please contact [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov): Subject PFAS

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## DWP PFAS Regulations and Program Training

**\*\*\*Save the Date for MassDEP Drinking Water Program PFAS Regulation and Program Training\*\*\***  
**MassDEP Drinking Water Program will be partnering with RCAP to provide this web training.**

- **Date and Time:**
- **Dec 10, 9am: 3 Hour New MA PFAS Regulations Training. TCHs will be provided.**

**Registration details will be provided later**

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## Sodium Reporting

The Drinking Water Regulations at 310CMR 22.06A require PWSs to send a copy of their sodium results to MassDEP, the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) and your local board of health. For a link to the DWP regulations go to: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/310-cmr-2200-the-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations/download>.

Excerpt

*“310 CMR 22.06A(4) Sodium Reporting. The supplier of water shall report to the Department the results of the analyses for sodium within the first ten days of the month following the month in which the sample results were received or within the first ten days following the end of the required monitoring period, whichever comes first.*

*“310 CMR 22.06A(5) Sodium Notification. The supplier of water shall report the level of sodium for each source to the local Boards of Health and Massachusetts Department of Public Health by written notice by direct mail within 30 days after the supplier of water first learns of the analytic results which indicate a level of sodium.”*

During the pandemic, MassDEP/DWP has allowed PWSs to supplement DWP report submissions by email. Send such submissions to [Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov).

DPH is allowing sodium reports to be sent to the DPH on their dedicated drinking water email account. Copies of the sodium notices can be sent to [DPHdrinkingwater@mass.gov](mailto:DPHdrinkingwater@mass.gov).

Contact your local board of health to see if they will accept emailed copies of the report.

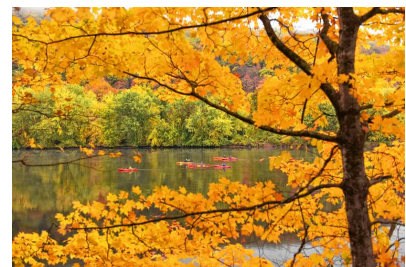
Please note all sodium reports submitted to the Drinking Water Program can be found at the EEA Data Portal at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/home>

If you have any questions on this information contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov)

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## Lawmakers Focus on Connecticut River's Significance

Lawmakers and state officials went kayaking on the Connecticut River last Monday to raise awareness about the river's important connection to the environment. The river runs 67.7 miles through western Massachusetts and is crucial to supporting life, farms, economy, and culture. The river has sustained human populations for thousands of years and its care is central to the lives of millions of people today and into the future.



Click [here](#) for full article from the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

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## 2020 SDWA Assessment Rate Information

Due to challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, for 2020 the annual Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) rate letter was sent out by email with an opportunity to request a hard copy sent by postal mail.

The rate structure for FY22, which will be billed in December 2021, remains the same as for FY21. The FY22 rate is based on water use reported on your Annual Statistical Report for calendar year 2019.

The Assessment helps support MassDEP's implementation of over 50 federal Safe Drinking Water Act programs and allows MassDEP's Drinking Water Program to provide no-cost technical and compliance assistance and training to PWS. Training topics are determined based on needs articulated by PWS and/or by surveying deficiencies identified during sanitary surveys. No-cost Training Contact Hours (TCHs) to maintain state drinking water operator licenses are provided. A list of work accomplished by MassDEP staff in 2019 is included with the letter.

A copy of the rate letter will be posted at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee>.

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## Webinar: Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

EPA Webinar - October 27, 2020 2:00pm to 3:00 pm ET Register [here](#).

This seminar is split into two segments:

Disinfectant Penetration into Biofilm

and Improving Compliance with the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule in Oklahoma.

Please see the flyer at: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-10/documents/epa\\_small\\_systems\\_webinar\\_flyer\\_27oct20.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-10/documents/epa_small_systems_webinar_flyer_27oct20.pdf)

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## Webinar: Improving Financial Reporting

Environmental Finance Center Network

Thursday, October 29, 2020 2:00pm – 3:00pm EST Register [Here](#)

In this webinar called Improving Financial Reporting for Water Infrastructure Facilities you will

- Learn how an organization separates assets
- Understand ways to collaborate outside of your department
- Understand ways to leverage inter-connective opportunities
- Gain an understanding of GFOA best practices related to asset management



If you have any questions contact [smallsystems@syr.edu](mailto:smallsystems@syr.edu).

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## Training

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=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF\\_o\\_249m](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  **YouTube**

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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>.

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COVID Survey - MA Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

|    |           |  |                      |
|----|-----------|--|----------------------|
| MA | MA2101000 | FRANKLIN WATER DEPARTMENT                | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA4083000 | EAST BRIDGEWATER WATER DEPT              | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA1275001 | SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT #2 WATER DEPT | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA2037009 | CARRIAGE HOUSE CONDOMINIUM               | CWS LT 501           |
| MA | MA4096000 | FALMOUTH WATER DEPT                      | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA3010000 | ARLINGTON WATER DEPT. (MWRA)             | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA4285007 | BISHOPS LANDING CONDOMINIUMS             | CWS LT 501           |
| MA | MA1311001 | WEST WARREN WATER DISTRICT               | CWS 501 - 3,300      |
| MA | MA3207000 | NEWTON WATER DEPT. (MWRA)                | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA1120002 | HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY                | CWS LT 501           |
| MA | MA3078006 | COLONIAL WATER COMPANY                   | CWS 501 - 3,300      |
| MA | MA1132000 | HINSDALE WATER DEPT                      | CWS 501 - 3,300      |
| MA | MA1069001 | CUMMINGTON WATER DEPT                    | CWS LT 501           |
| MA | MA4336000 | WEYMOUTH WATER DEPARTMENT                | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA1236000 | PITTSFIELD DPU WATER DEPT                | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA1087000 | EASTHAMPTON WATER DEPT                   | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA3031000 | BILLERICA WATER WORKS                    | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA4122000 | HANOVER WATER DEPT                       | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA3333000 | WESTON WATER DEPT.                       | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA1276000 | SOUTHAMPTON WATER DEPT                   | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA4265000 | SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT                   | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA3308000 | WALTHAM WATER DEPARTMENT                 | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA2257000 | RUTLAND WATER DEPARTMENT                 | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA1279000 | SOUTHWICK WATER DEPT                     | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA1008000 | AMHERST DPW WATER DIVISION               | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA4293000 | TAUNTON WATER DIVISION                   | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA3160000 | LOWELL REGIONAL WATER UTILITY            | CWS GT 100,000       |
| MA | MA2348000 | WORCESTER DPW, WATER SUPPLY DIVISION     | CWS GT 100,000       |
| MA | MA3149000 | LAWRENCE WATER WORKS                     | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA4095000 | FALL RIVER WATER DEPARTMENT              | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA2080000 | DUDLEY WATER DEPARTMENT                  | CWS 3,301 - 10,000   |
| MA | MA3163000 | LYNN WATER AND SEWER COMM                | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA3030001 | SALEM AND BEVERLY WATER SUPPLY BOARD     | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA1281000 | SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION   | CWS GT 100,000       |
| MA | MA3229000 | PEABODY WATER DEPT.                      | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA3046000 | BROOKLINE WATER AND SEWER DIVISION       | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA3181000 | METHUEN WATER DEPT                       | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA1061000 | CHICOPEE WATER DEPT (MWRA)               | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA3049000 | CAMBRIDGE WATER DEPARTMENT               | CWS GT 100,000       |
| MA | MA3155000 | LEXINGTON WATER DEPT. (MWRA)             | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA4075000 | DENNIS WATER DISTRICT                    | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |
| MA | MA4076004 | INIMA USA / AQUARIA LLC                  | CWS 10,001 - 100,000 |

## COVID Survey - MA Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

### Wastewater Facilities

|    |           |  |                       |
|----|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| MA | MA0102695 | Scituate Dept. of Public Works                     | WWTF Less than 10,000 |
| MA | MA0100897 | Taunton Department of Public Works                 | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA |           | Nantucket Dept. of Public Works                    | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0101630 | Holyoke Department of Public Works                 | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0100013 | Shirley Sewer Commission                           | WWTF Less than 10,000 |
| MA | MA0101605 | Dartmouth WPC                                      | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0100455 | South Hadley Dept. of Public Works                 | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0100765 | FAIRHAVEN, TOWN OF                                 | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0101711 | Billerica Dept. of Public Works                    | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0102598 | Charles River PC District                          | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0100412 | Westborough Water and Sewer Commission             | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0101508 | Chicopee Water Pollution Control                   | WWTF 10,000 - 99,999  |
| MA | MA0101311 | Grafton Wastewater System                          | WWTF Less than 10,000 |
| MA | MA0100552 | Lynn Water & Sewer Commisssion                     | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0100781 | New Bedford Wastewater Division                    | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0100501 | South Essex Wastewater District                    | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0101613 | Springfield Water and Sewer Commission             | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0100404 | Mass. Water Resources Authority                    | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0102369 | Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement Distric | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0100447 | Greater Lawrence Sanitary District                 | WWTF 100,000 or more  |
| MA | MA0100218 | Town of Amherst                                    | WWTF 100,000 or more  |