



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

One Winter Street – 5th Floor; Boston, MA 02108

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

The Drinking Water Updates/In The Main 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>



Downtown Crossing Holiday Shoppers - Pixabay

Drinking Water Program Updates – In The Main eNewsletter

2020-12-04

This week's newsletter has these topics of interest:

1. MassDEP COVID-19 Information
 - Important update from Governor Baker as of 11-2-2020
 - MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
 - MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls
 - EPA COVID-19 Information
1. **Free Cloth Masks Still Available**
2. **PFAS Treatment Planning and Design Grants Round 2 Available**
2. Free Lead Water Testing For Family Childcare Facilities
3. Informational Lead in Drinking Water Magnet
4. 2020 Public Water System Awards Program
5. Free America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) REMINDERS, TRAININGS & RESOURCES!
6. Cold Weather Checklist
7. EPA's Knowledge Retention Tool
8. Training
9. 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 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>

Important update from Governor Baker as of 11-2-2020

New COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have been increasing over the past several weeks, with cases up by 278% and hospitalizations up by 145% since Labor Day.

To disrupt this trend, the Governor announced a series of important new measures, including:

- A revised Stay-at-Home Advisory to ensure residents avoid unnecessary activities that can lead to increased COVID-19 transmission. The revised Stay-at-Home Advisory instructs residents to stay home between 10 PM and 5 AM. The Advisory allows for activities such as going to work, running critical errands to get groceries and address health needs, and taking a walk.
- A new executive order that requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 PM.
- A revised face covering order that requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they can maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- A revised gatherings order was announced which reduces the gathering size limit for gatherings at private residences: indoor gatherings at private residences are now limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues (e.g., wedding venues) remains the same. The new order also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30 PM.

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>

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. 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, January 5, 2021 at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at 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

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>

EPA COVID-19 Information

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

Free CLOTH MASKS STILL AVAILABLE!

MassDEP and numerous water sector partners have distributed more than 16,000 cloth masks over the last few weeks during a third distribution round. As mentioned during the monthly Commissioner's call for PWSs on 12/1/2020, surplus cloth masks are still available. If you missed the opportunity to request additional cloth masks for your system, please contact Kristin Divris at Kristin.divris@mass.gov or 508-887-0021 by December 11, 2020.

PFAS Treatment Planning and Design Grants Round 2 Available

MassDEP is pleased to offer a second round of grants to provide PFAS-Impacted Communities with grants or reimbursements for the planning and design of PFAS Treatment Systems. Round 2 is intended to emphasize new needs that have been identified in MassDEP's Statewide PFAS Sampling Program. As with Round 1, work funded by Round 2 grants must be completed by June 30, 2021.

MassDEP anticipates that the typical grant/reimbursement award to any individual public water supplier will be up to a maximum of \$200,000. However, in its discretion, MassDEP reserves the right to award individual grants or reimbursements in excess of \$200,000 for proposals of exceptional merit, based upon the total number, quality, and quantity of the proposals received for the funding opportunity. The total potential funding available for all grant proposals/reimbursement requests through this program is up to \$3 million.

More information and the grant application are available [here](#).

Deadline to submit your grant application: **Wednesday, December 30, 2020.**

Free Lead Water Testing For Emergency Family Childcare Facilities

Massachusetts Expanded Assistance Program for lead in school and childcare drinking water facilities is making free lead testing available, free technical assistance, and free outreach materials to eligible facilities. Please see [attached](#) flyer.

Apply online at: <http://www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water>

Email: <mailto:lccadep@umass.edu> or program.director-dwp@mass.gov

Funding provided in part by a US Environmental Protection Agency grant.

Informational Lead in Drinking Water Magnet

MassDEP, working with our partners at UMass-Amherst, recently designed and distributed to all childcare facilities an informational magnet about lead in drinking water. If you are interested in receiving a magnet(s) for distribution to other locations in your community, please email program.director-dwp@mass.gov with Magnet in the subject line. Depending on the level of interest, we may be able to print more of them. Information about our Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in

Drinking Water at Schools and Early Education and Care Facilities can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water>.

2020 Public Water System Awards Program

For the 2019 evaluation year

The world, as we know it, has been transformed since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2020 Public Water System Awards Program is no exception. This year's program was strictly compliance-based; the systems that have had no enforcement or compliance issues for 2019 and the prior five years (which is rather an impressive feat to achieve) are included. This year's program does not include the "above and beyond compliance" component to the awards which traditionally is used to break ties between the top-notch systems. That means we have elected to honor *all* the systems that met the enforcement and compliance threshold; the top 12.1% of NTNC and community systems for calendar year 2019.

There are also the nominated awards in water conservation, energy conservation, regional recognition, the STARL (Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead in schools), and the distinguished operator award. Think about nominating one of your peers for these awards in 2021.

Note that because of social distancing we did not have an in-person Awards Ceremony this year. You may view the list of award recipients [here](#).

Free America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) REMINDERS, TRAINING & RESOURCES!

- **PWSs serving 50,000 to 99,999** should be in the process of finalizing their Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) in time to submit certification of its completion by **DECEMBER 31, 2020**. Certification to EPA of your updated Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is required by JUNE 30, 2021.
- **PWSs serving 3,301 to 49,999** should also be in the RRA planning process in order to submit certification of its completion to EPA by **JUNE 30, 2021**. Certification to EPA of your updated ERP is required by DECEMBER 31, 2021.

EPA REGION I TRAINING – SAVE THE DATES!

Free virtual training on AWIA for small systems will be provided in early February 2021. Registration details will be available soon.

Module 1 - AWIA Section 2013 Requirements, Certification, and Section 2018 Basics	Tuesday	2/2/2021	10:30am-12:00pm EDT
Module 2 - AWIA Risk and Resilience Assessments: Malevolent Acts, Natural Hazards, and the Small Systems Checklist	Wednesday	2/3/2021	10:30am-12:00pm EDT
Module 3 - AWIA Emergency Response Plan Template and Guidance	Thursday	2/4/2021	10:30am-12:00pm EDT

If you're unable to attend the live February trainings, you can also access recordings of EPA's 4-part AWIA Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Training 101 at:

<https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/register-water-utility-resilience-workshops-and-webinars-now>

Cold Weather Checklist

With autumn coming to a close and we await the winter solstice, we are sure to be in for cold, snowy, inclement weather. You still have a little time left to gear up your facility to brave the harsh weather that is sure to come. Below is some tips, tricks, and help websites that will aid your cold-weather preparations. Be prepared, don't be left out in the cold!

EPA Incident Action Checklist for Extreme Cold Winter Storms:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/201506/documents/extreme_cold_and_winter_storms.pdf

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has tips on how people, meaning operators, can prepare themselves for cold weather:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/beforestorm/preparehome.html>

American International Group (AIG) has a cold weather checklist to prepare your utility against loss.

Find it utilities which is easy and concise to follow. Find it at:

<https://www.aig.com/content/dam/aig/america-canada/us/documents/business/property/com-cg-13-0052-form-635-cold-weather-check-list-08-24-2015-final-brochure.pdf>

For aid during emergencies or to give aid to others consider signing up for the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) at: https://sphweb.bumc.bu.edu/otlt/peer/hhan_quick_reference_guide.pdf and the Water Agency Response Network (WARN) at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/warn#:~:text=The%20Massachusetts%20WARN%20is%20intended,utilities%20during%20times%20of%20crisis.&text=The%20objective%20is%20to%20provide,operation%20of%20the%20affected%20utility.>

EPA's Knowledge Retention Tool

The Knowledge Retention Tool is a free, publicly available spreadsheet tool to help operators consolidate system information into one location, enabling increased organization and coordination among operators. Designed to assist in personnel transition, the tool encompasses a wide variety of information that a new or contract operator would need to effectively manage and operate a small water system. During this webinar you will learn what kind of information can be captured using the tool as well as see a demonstration of some of the tool's features. There will be a question and answer session for the last 30 minutes of the webinar.

Download the free tool here: <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/interactive-tools-owners-and-operators#interactive>

There is also a webinar on December 8, 2020 at 2:00- 3:00 ET

Registration link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5341229986574913549>

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.

Some newly added trainings on the calendar are:

- EFCN's Webinar: Preparing for a Sanitary Survey on December 7, 2020 – [More Info](#)

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

or click here:  **YouTube**

Spam

Remember, if you receive an email from the state the email address will be in the

[firstname.lastname@mass.gov](#) format. If it is not, do not open or click on any links as it most probably is spam.

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>.

Massachusetts Expanded Assistance Program for
Lead in School and Childcare Drinking Water

Free Lead Water Testing

for **Schools and Childcare Facilities**



Program Advantages

*Free
Water
Testing*

*Free
Technical
Assistance*

*Free
Outreach
Materials*

*Grants for
Bottle Filling
Stations for
Eligible
Facilities **



Funding provided in part by a US Environmental Protection Agency grant
*Offered by the MA Clean Water Trust - See www.mass.gov/swig for details

Massachusetts Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in School and Childcare Drinking Water

Who Can Apply for Testing

- 1** Public Schools that did not participate in previous programs
- 2** Early Education and Care Facilities - both public and private group and family programs

Priorities for Selection

- ☐ Programs serving children 6 years old and under located in lower-income areas
- ☐ Facilities constructed before 1988 with a likelihood of sustained building use as a childcare facility
- ☐ Communities with elevated childhood lead exposure

How to Apply

Apply online: www.mass.gov/assistance-program-for-lead-in-school-drinking-water

Email: lccadep@umass.edu or program.director-dwp@mass.gov

Call: (413) 545-0840

