



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://www.mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers>



The May Pole

The Washington Revels

Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-05-01

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

1. COVID-19 Information
 - Massachusetts COVID-19 Information
 - *Cloth Mask Survey*
 - MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
 - MassDEP COVID19 Conference Calls
 - EPA's Grants for Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19
2. eASR Updates
3. MassDEP Building Flushing Information
4. CCR Good Faith Efforts
5. 2020 Final Intended Use Plan for DWSRF
6. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program planning grant
7. Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$663 Million in Loans and Grants
8. Do you have PWS photographs?
9. NEWWA
10. Federal Drinking Water regulation and bills news
11. Training

COVID 19 Information

Massachusetts COVID-19 Information

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

On 3/24/20 Governor Baker announced the launch of a new messaging tool called “AlertsMA”. This tool allows residents to subscribe to real-time notifications by texting 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.

*** Survey on How Many Cloth Masks Does Each Public Water Supplier or Waste Water Facility Need -Don't miss this opportunity. Submit your survey today.**

If you have already completed this survey, thank you for your timely response.

Massachusetts water and wastewater utilities have been informed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of a planned federal distribution of up to 60,000 reusable cloth (non-N95) masks to Massachusetts water and wastewater utilities. More information will be provided when available.

To help us determine the number of masks that would be allocated to each facility or contract operating firm, **please have a representative of your facility or contract operating firm fill out this survey as soon as possible. Only one response is needed from each Public Water Supplier, Waste Water Utility or Contract Operating firm:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FBDY8KR>.

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](#)
- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Wastewater Treatment System Operators Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- Questions from wastewater operators answered by MassDEP: [Wastewater Operator FAQs](#)
Guidance documents posted
 - [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](#))
- ***NEW*** Building flushing information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information/download>
- ***NEW*** Drinking Water certified operator license extension guidance <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-regarding-the-orders-by-the-governor-extending-certain-occupational-and>

MassDEP COVID19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is holding weekly 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, May 5, at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. You may also email questions to jpederson@masswaterworks.org by noon on Tuesday.

Topic: MassDEP call with Public Water Systems re: COVID-19

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

By Phone: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

With Computer Audio: <https://zoom.us/j/716180953> (please turn your video off!)

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 Grants for Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19

“Environmental justice grants aim to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities across the country impacted by COVID-19, regardless of their zip code,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “These grants are part of EPA’s effort to actively fight the COVID-19 pandemic that is having a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities.”

Note to nonprofits: Nonprofits are not eligible for this COVID-19 funding however, states and local government may partner with non-profits.

For more information on EPA’s Environmental Justice Grants go to: <http://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program>
To apply for funding go to: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program#tab-2>

Applicants must submit proposal packages on or before **June 30, 2020** to be considered for funding.

eASR Updates

All Massachusetts Public Water Systems are required to submit an Annual Statistical Report (ASR) each year. This annual report of your water system is usually due in March but due to current events the date has been extended to July 1, 2020.

MassDEP applauds the 811 systems that have already filled out and submitted their eASR. It is great to see this many systems ahead of the curve! Eleven systems have signed, but not yet submitted, their eASR.

There are 328 systems that are currently working on their ASRs. Keep working on them and call if you need any help to get them finished. Finally, there are only 482 systems that have not started their ASR as of today. Why not start your ASR today and submit it well before the deadline? If you need any help Andrew.Durham@mass.gov and Tio.Yano@mass.gov are available to assist you.

MassDEP Building Flushing Information

This information may be useful for public water systems, large and small facilities, or homes on a public water system after buildings have been shut down or used less frequently.

As buildings have been shut down or used less frequently, water quality in the buildings may become degraded due to stagnation. **It is always a good practice to flush all water supply lines in a facility after a prolonged closure to ensure fresh water is in the system.** This guidance provides a general roadmap for how to flush stale stagnant water from homes and other buildings and get the plumbing system water quality back to pre-stagnation conditions and ensure that your water system is safe to use after a prolonged shutdown. *Please note: During the COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency, social distancing protocols must be followed by facility staff while performing steps to return service to homes and other buildings as well as while engaging with residents.*

The guidance document can be found on the MassDEP COVID-19 webpages:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-covid-19-resources-for-water-suppliers-and-wastewater-operators#water-supplier-resources> and at: <https://www.mass.gov/media/2126061/download>

CCR Good Faith Efforts

MassDEP has received inquiries on how systems are supposed to complete three Good Faith Efforts while the Commonwealth is under a Stay-at-Home Advisory. Many systems deliver Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) to public buildings such as city halls, DPWs, libraries, police stations, and schools to reach consumers that wouldn't ordinarily receive a copy of their CCR.

And even though PWS may be able to deliver CCRs to these buildings, they are closed to the public and thus the public who is intended to see them, won't. MassDEP encourages PWS to identify and use other Good Faith Effort that would be effect during this pandemic. Community Water System must make a good faith effort to reach consumers who do not get water bills, and are required to take a minimum of three of the following actions:

- (a) Post report in the lobby of apartment complexes;
- (b) Place an ad in a local newspaper stating where copies are available;
- (c) Announce availability of the consumer confidence report on local radio stations;
- (d) Post consumer confidence report in Town Hall;
- (e) Place copies of the consumer confidence report in the local public library;
- (f) Post a notice (in main lobby of apartment complexes) stating that the consumer confidence report is posted on a website, and give the website address;
- (g) Publish the report in local newspaper(s);
- (h) Deliver the report to community organizations.

Several of these options can be accomplished via mail/email. In addition, if there are local apartment complexes where you usually leave copies you could try to identify a building manager to whom you could mail copies (a) or a notice (f) for posting. Please contact your regional MassDEP or Boston office CCR staff for assistance and remember that the federal rule states July 1 as the CCR deadline; it has not changed because of recent events.

2020 Final Intended Use Plan for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

On April 27, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) published the Calendar Year 2020 Intended Use Plan (IUP), which lists the projects, borrowers and amounts that will be financed through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program. The DWSRF is a joint federal-state financing program that provides subsidized loans to protect public health by improving water supply infrastructure systems and protect drinking water in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts is offering nearly \$166 million to finance drinking water projects across the Commonwealth. For more information see <https://www.mass.gov/lists/2020-final-srf-intended-use-plans>.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Grant Opportunities

Funding for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program](#), which provides support for Massachusetts cities and towns to plan for climate change and implement priority actions to enhance local resilience is now available.

1. The [MVP Planning Grant](#) awards communities funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans. The program helps communities define extreme weather and natural and climate related hazards; understand how their community may be impacted by climate change; identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths; and develop, prioritize, and implement key actions. Communities who complete the MVP planning program and become certified as an MVP community are then eligible for MVP Action Grant funding. [The Planning Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS](#). **The Planning Grant response period will be open on a rolling basis until 4:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020**, for MVP planning processes that must be complete by June 30, 2021. Early application is encouraged.

2. The [MVP Action Grant](#) program provides designated MVP Communities funding to implement priority adaptation actions identified through the MVP planning process or similar climate change vulnerability assessment and action planning that has led to MVP designation after EEA review. Projects are required to use best available climate data and projections. Projects that propose nature-based solutions or strategies that rely on green infrastructure or conservation and enhancement of natural systems and that have robust community engagement plans are preferred. There have been a number of updates to the Action Grant RFR from last round, so we recommend reading it through in full. Applicants can request up to \$2 million in funding (regional proposals may request up to \$5 million), and a 25 percent match of the total project cost is required. [The Action Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS](#). **Action Grant proposals are due by 2:00 p.m. on June 11, 2020**, for project proposals that must be complete by June 30, 2021 or June 30, 2022.

To review a webinar previously recorded earlier this month on the two grant opportunities is available [here](#).

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$663 Million in Loans and Grants

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced that 108 projects, impacting communities across the Commonwealth, will receive nearly \$663 million in low-interest rate loans and grants to fund construction, planning, and asset management projects designed to improve water quality, upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, and cut treatment plant energy use and costs.

The towns that were awarded grants are: West Boylston, New Bedford, Ayer, Leominster, Blackstone, Eastham, Dracut, Lowell, New Bedford, Brockton, Springfield, Newburyport, Braintree/Randolph/Holbrook, and Dudley.

To read full press release go to: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-663-million-in-loans-and-grants-to-fund-wastewater-and>

The next SRF project solicitation for proposals to be considered for the 2021 plan will be issued by MassDEP in early July 2020.

Do You Have Any PWS At Work Photographs!

As we get ready for Drinking Water Week May 3-9 EPA is looking for pictures of PWS at work to include in a social media campaign for National Drinking Water Week. Drinking Water Week is just around the corner. Pictures and releases should be sent to **Jane Downing** <downing.jane@epa.gov> **by May 1st, if possible. Submit your pictures today.**

Here are the details:

- We are looking for pictures of managers, operators, and water sector staff representing the variety of work you do. If you're working with others or working outside we expect you would be wearing appropriate PPE, for example if you're in the lab you would have googles and a lab coat. Selfies can work too.
- Pictures can be taken with a cell phone.
- You will have to sign the attached release allowing for the use of your picture in all media, see the information below
- Send your pictures to downing.jane@epa.gov with a statement that you agree to the terms of the photo/multimedia release and include the attached release or use this [fillable pdf](#).
- EPA plans to initially use these pictures during May's drinking water week. Depending on the response they may not be able to use all the pictures received but may also use these picture in future communications.

See **attached** media release.

NEWWA

As you know, New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) has canceled their very popular Spring Conference, but are working on a number of very helpful alternatives. NEWWA will be offering four courses in May online, and are currently scheduling two online courses per week in June. To register for these courses go to: <https://www.newwa.org/>.

In July and August they plan to offer both T1 and D1 six-week online exam prep courses.

NEWWA also has a COVID-19 resource page on their website and are sending weekly communication out to their contacts regarding COVID-19 as well as other general info about NEWWA.

Kirsten King, Executive Director of NEWWA, is also the secretary of the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MAWARN). She has been updating the contact list and adding new members. The MAWARN has gone from 81 to 104 in a very short amount of time. If utilities want to join MAWARN, download the agreement at <http://portal.mawarn.org/> and send the signed agreement back to Kirsten King.

Federal Drinking Water Regulations and Bills

Preliminary Regulatory Determinations for Contaminants on the Fourth Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List

EPA has extended the comment period for the Preliminary Fourth Regulatory Determinations from May 11th to June 10th (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/regdet_extension_prepub.pdf).

The Drinking Water Infrastructure Act

There are two bills the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) has drafted, [AWIA 2020](#), which focuses on Army Corps and CWA projects/funding, and the [Drinking Water Infrastructure Act](#), which focuses on SDWA funding and provisions. The Committee released a section-by-section summary of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act [here](#) and a section-by-section summary of the draft AWIA 2020 [here](#).

The full press release on the two bills is available

here: <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases-republican?ID=A972BA8E-0390-4246-B10A-324F3CE73C67>.

National Cybersecurity Alliance Free Webinar

It's important to be aware of cybersecurity risks, particularly with so many people teleworking during the coronavirus pandemic. During this webinar, the National Cyber Security Alliance and partners will break down some of the most common COVID-19 scams we're seeing today, and will provide attendees with tips and resources they can use to avoid these scams.

DATE: Tuesday, May 5
TIME: 2:00 pm (Eastern)
REGISTER: [Click here](#)


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

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>.

US EPA MULTIMEDIA RELEASE

Photography/Video/Sound Release Form

I hereby give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permission to use (check applicable categories)

- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Videotapes or motion pictures
- ☐ Sound recordings

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I understand that this permission includes, but is not limited to, publication of this material by EPA in printed materials, television or radio broadcasts, or Internet websites.

I further understand that I will not be compensated for such use.

Date:	Location:
Signature	Date
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian of Minor Child(ren)	
Address	
Phone	

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