



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:

mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers



Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-05-08

HAPPY DRINKING WATER WEEK May 3-9, 2020.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO...

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

1. COVID-19 Information
 - Massachusetts COVID-19 Information
 - MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
 - MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls
 - CDC Covid-19 Information
2. Carbon Dioxide Supplies
3. Fourth Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List - Comment Period
4. ABC Innovation in Certification 2021 - Call for Presentations
5. NEWWA YouTube Video Contest
6. Security & Resilience Updates
7. Trainings
 - EPA Webinar on Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) Mobile Application
 - EPA Webinar on Drinking Water Microbes and Regulations
 - Water Laboratory Alliance Webinars - US EPA Water Security Division
 - National Groundwater Association - Industry Connected

COVID-19 Information

Massachusetts 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](#)

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](#))
- Mass DEP Building Flushing Information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information/download>

MassDEP COVID-19 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 12, 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

Time: May 12, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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>

CDC Covid-19 Updates

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update its COVID-19 resources, posting new and revised information and guidelines for specific communities and sectors as well as for the general public. Some of the new and revised products that may be of interest to water and wastewater utilities include:

- **COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning** – On this webpage, the CDC encourages critical infrastructure workplaces to develop a COVID-19 response plan; it includes advise and links to resources to assist in this process. The CDC also discusses how to adapt a response plan based on its guidance.
- **Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes** - This document provides a general framework for cleaning and

disinfection practices. The associated Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting contains a decision flowchart.

- **Social Distancing** – This updated webpage discusses how to practice social distancing now contains subcategories for those at increased risk and for whom there are additional considerations, including people with disabilities.

Carbon Dioxide Supplies

Drinking water facilities that use CO₂ are not as prevalent in the northeast as they are in other parts of the country, thus there are relatively few food-grade CO₂ suppliers. Facilities that produce food-grade CO₂ often sell that CO₂ to a supplier that can process (e.g., purify, compress) and deliver the CO₂ to water utilities and other customers that need them. During this time of shortages, US EPA is providing information on food-grade CO₂ suppliers and producers in the event that water utilities need to identify alternative companies from which to purchase, pursuant to Section 1442(a)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. To view the resources that EPA has compiled please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/food-grade-co2-suppliers-and-producers>

Fourth Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List - Comment Period

EPA is extending the comment period for the “Announcement of Preliminary Regulatory Determinations for Contaminants on the Fourth Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List.” In response to stakeholder requests, EPA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days from May 11, 2020 to June 10, 2020. For more information please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ccl/regulatory-determination-4>

ABC Innovation in Certification 2021 - Call for Presentations

The ABC Innovation in Certification Annual Conference and Trainers Workshop relies on the exchange of ideas and discussion of certification best practices. To ensure the industry remains up to speed on the latest trends and greatest innovations affecting water environment certifiers and trainers, we want to hear from you!

- What successes have you had in preparing for impending workforce challenges?
- What efforts has your organization made to achieve financial sustainability?
- How can we continue to improve reciprocity and recognition of industry programs?

Present your answers to questions like these to your peers and colleagues at Innovation in Certification 2021 in Albuquerque, New Mexico January 5th - 8th.

Application Process

Please submit your completed [application](#) by **August 31, 2020**.

Selection

All submissions will be reviewed by the ABC Conference Committee and presenters will be notified of their selection and participation in the program in September 2020.

Questions

Please email conference@abccert.org or call 515-232-3623 with any questions regarding the Call for Presentations. Visit innovation.abccert.org for more information on Innovation in Certification 2021.

NEWWA YouTube Video Contest

For NEWWA's President Barbara Cook, one of her goals for the year is to work with NEWWA staff, committees, and volunteers to produce at least three YouTube outreach videos. While the water works community is practicing social distancing and many members are working remotely, NEWWA will hold a YouTube Video Contest. The videos will benefit water works professionals all over New England—we need both technical resources and entertainment during this challenging period.

Pitch your idea, film your video, submit your final cut, and you may win a prize and bragging rights! Videos may be filmed right on your phone -TikTok submissions are welcome. Click the link below for full contest details.

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2020

For details see: newwa.org/

Security & Resilience Updates

Webinars:

- **EFCN Ask the Expert:** Protecting and Investing in the Water Workforce through COVID-19 and Beyond
Thursday, May 21, 2020; 2:00pm-3:00pm EST
Essential workers, including water operators, require support and protection during the

COVID-19 pandemic to develop the infrastructure workforce for a resilient future. This webinar will include a brief overview of long-term economic, workforce, and infrastructure investment trends, and include a facilitated discussion of participant questions. Register here: [EFCN Ask the Expert](#)

- **Environmental Finance Network Center (EFNC) Funding and Financing Strategies for Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Water Resource Plans**
Wednesday, May 27, 2020; 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET
This webinar will provide strategies for incorporating funding and financial strategies into integrated plans and explore various solutions for how local communities can pay for water resource projects by integrating hazard mitigation and water quality-focused resource management. Register here: [EFCN Funding & Finance](#)
- **America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) Compliance Lessons Learned**
Thursday, May 28, 2020; 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET
EPA will conduct an "AWIA Compliance Lessons Learned" utility webinar, where discussion about the steps your utility can take to conduct a comprehensive risk and resilience assessment in addition to first-hand insights from a large water utility that recently achieved AWIA compliance with the March 31, 2020 submission deadline. The webinar is geared to medium and small-size systems and participants will learn how to access the latest tools, resources, and guidance to assist their water utility in complying with the requirements of AWIA. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **WaterISAC** is offering a three-part webinar series in collaboration with Arcadis U.S., Inc., the first of which was held on 4/29/2020 and was open to non-members. The webinar focused on AWIA Emergency Response Plan (ERP) requirements and the planning process. A recording of this webinar is available to non-members here: [Access the recording and presentation at WaterISAC](#). WaterISAC members can also register for webinar parts 2 and 3 on May 26th and June 23rd respectively here: [WaterISAC](#)
- **COVID-19 Scams** webinar materials now available. Hosted by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and presented by the Federal Trade Commission, Trend Micro, and Generali Global Assistance the recording and slides are now available for review on the [staysafeonline.org](#) website. Direct link for the recording is here: [NCSA COVID-19 Scams](#)
If you do not want to click the direct link, you can follow these steps to access the posted and other videos:
 1. Visit NCSA's website at: [staysafeonline.org](#)
 2. Click the orange "resources library" button at the top-right corner of the page
 3. Sort by "video"
 4. Select "COVID-19 Scams"

Cybersecurity Webinars:

- **The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** provides extensive knowledge and practices to defend against today's threats and build a more secure and resilient infrastructure. CISA encourages users and administrators to review current activity [HERE-CISA](#) and apply necessary updates.
- **Google Releases Security Updates for Chrome** - [Chrome Release](#)
- **Mozilla Releases Security Updates for Firefox and Firefox ESR** - [Firefox 76](#) and [Firefox ESR 68.8](#)
- **Situational Awareness - SCADA**
On April 23, 2020, Israel reported attempted cyber intrusion attacks against water systems including wastewater treatment plants, water pumping stations and sewers targeting SCADA systems. Read more about this here: [ZDNet](#)

Other Guidance:

FEMA Publishes Guidance on PPE Needs for Non-Healthcare Sectors

FEMA has published two guidance documents on PPE needs during the COVID-19 pandemic response to ensure the protection of workers.

Guidance summarizing how organizations should consider and manage their personal protective equipment (PPE) needs including

- objective,
- preservation strategies for non-healthcare settings,
- acquiring PPE during shortages; and,
- key questions before making PPE requests.


To find more information, see the FEMA Fact Sheet [HERE](#), which includes [CDC strategies to optimize the supply of PPE](#), [decontamination and reuse of filtering facepiece respirators](#), [PPE best practices](#), and [PPE burn rate calculator \(including mobile app\)](#).

Trainings

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**

Other Trainings:

- EPA Webinar on Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) Mobile Application
May 13th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm
Webinar covers the new free CyAN mobile app that provides an easy to use, customizable interface for accessing algal bloom satellite data for over 2,000 of the largest lakes and reservoirs in the US.
[+ Read More](#)
- EPA Webinar on Drinking Water Microbes and Regulations
May 19th from 2:00-3:00 pm
Basic information about microbiology and microbes that have impacted drinking water and provides a brief history of waterborne disease and [+ Read More](#)
- Water Laboratory Alliance Webinars - US EPA Water Security Division
WLA will be hosting informative webinars on resources and tools to support laboratory resilience. The webinars will cover the following resources:
 - Accessing Laboratory Support resource, May 13 2020 at 11:00
 - Water Contaminant Information Tool, May 20, 2020 | 11:00 am ET
 - WLA Response Plan Table-top Exercise (WLA-RP TTX) May 27, 2020 | 1:00 pm ET
 A full list of upcoming WLA webinars can be found [here](#).
- National Groundwater Association - Industry Connected
New video and podcast series that provides members with information and strategies to deal with the ever-evolving business climate. ngwa.org/events-and-education/ngwa's-event-calendar

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.
