Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Community Water Supply

Weekly Program Update
March 26, 2020
Q & A Panel

• Eric Oswald
  — Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division Director
• George Krisztian
  — DWEHD Assistant Director
• Brian Thurston
  — DWEHD Field Operations Section Manager
• Kris Philip
  — DWEHD Community Water Supply Section Manager
Submit Questions

• A Q&A session will conclude the presentation
  – Click the chat bubble icon in the upper right corner of the window.
  – Submit questions through the Q&A frame that appears.
EPA Statement on COVID-19 in Drinking Water

Is drinking tap water safe?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the, “presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low.” Additionally, according to the CDC, COVID-19 is mainly thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another. Read more from the CDC about transmission of COVID-19. Further, EPA’s drinking water regulations require treatment at public water systems to remove or kill pathogens, including viruses.

Topics Covered Today

• EGLE Weekly Updates
• COVID-19 Impacts
  – EGLE Staff
  – EGLE Services
  – Water Supplies
• COVID-19 Resources For Water Supplies
• Q&A Session
COVID-19 Impacts to EGLE Staff

• All staff are working from home and are available
  — Valid communication methods:
    • Cell phones (most field staff have mobile phones)
    • Email
  — Limited or delayed communication methods:
    • Desk phones
    • Fax machines
    • Physical mail deliveries
    • In-person meetings
• Non-critical field visits and sanitary surveys have been suspended during the Stay Home Order
COVID-19 Impacts to EGLE Services

• Operator Certification
  – May exams have been cancelled
  – In-person training has been cancelled or is being shifted online
  – See the [Operator Certification webpage](#) for more info, including a list of approved online and mail-in training courses

• State Laboratory
  – Remains OPEN with normal hours – mail or ship via USPS/UPS/Fed Ex
  – Be sure to account for potential hold time and thermal preservation impacts
COVID-19 Impacts to Water Supplies

• Water & wastewater personnel are critical assets and should take strong precautions against infection and have contingency plans in place

• We are hearing of a few issues so far:
  – Access to sampling sites at closed businesses and homes
    • Guidance for this is available on our COVID-19 specific website
  – Anticipated shortages in chemical supplies
    • Check with specific supplier on status, arrange alternate suppliers early
  – A few laboratories are closing during the Stay Safe Order
    • Other labs are available, including the State lab
COVID-19 Resources for Water Supplies

State of Michigan
COVID-19 Information
michigan.gov/coronavirus

• Executive Orders
• Health Information
• Recommended Actions
COVID-19 Resources for Water Supplies

EGLE Drinking Water COVID-19 Information

• Navigate to: www.michigan.gov/communitywater

• Then on “COVID-19: Information for Water Operators” near the top of the page
COVID-19 Resources for Water Supplies

EGLE Drinking Water

COVID-19 Information

• Status of EGLE Services
• General COVID-19 Info
• Ensuring Continuity of Service
• Restoring Water Service
• Sampling
• Recommended Precautions
• Frequently Asked Questions

(Once assembled)
DECEMBER 1-3, 2020 / SUBURBAN SHOWPLACE, NOVI

• **Over 80 concurrent presentations** delivered by experts will cover topics focused on funding and finance mechanisms, water affordability, environmental health, water infrastructure planning and reinvestment, innovative water quality solutions, green infrastructure techniques, cybersecurity strategy, and communications practices.

• **Networking opportunities**, including conversations w/federal, state, & local officials

• **Exhibitors** of innovative technology

• **Continuing education credits** for professional engineers, drinking water operators, wastewater operators, & floodplain managers.

All for just $175 (if registered by November 6)!

[Michigan.gov/EGLEevents](https://Michigan.gov/EGLEevents)
Q&A Session

• Click the chat bubble icon in the upper right corner of the window.
• Submit questions through the Q&A frame that appears.
• Questions will be compiled and posted to the Community Water COVID-19 website as a Q&A document.

• EGLE is creating an email address for submittal of questions
Thank you for tuning in!

- Look for notification of future sessions
- Stay in contact with your district engineer and communicate any challenges you are facing
- Stay safe out there!