

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

Monthly Program Update

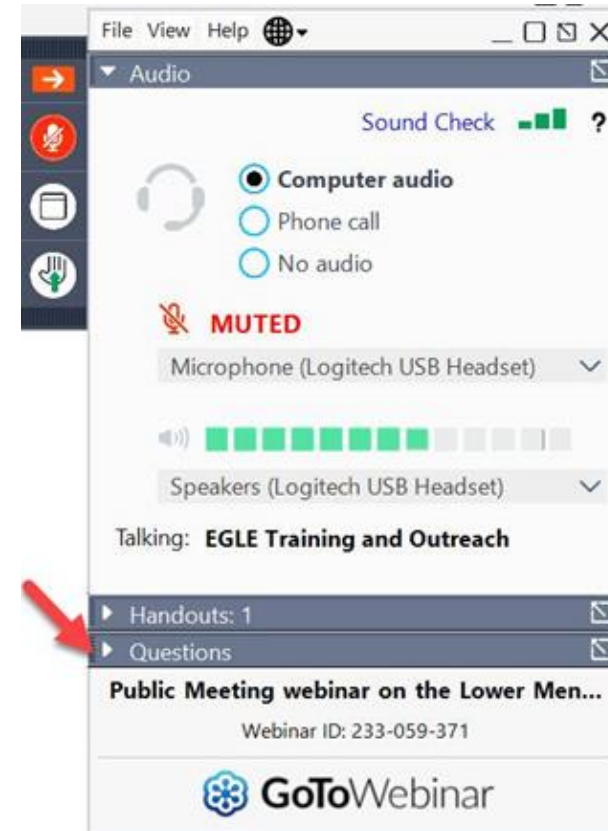
July 16, 2020



All lines are muted during the webinar.



Submit your questions using the “**Question**” box in your Go To Webinar tool bar.



Poll Question 1

Q & A Panel

- Eric Oswald
 - Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division Director
- Brian Thurston
 - DWEHD Field Operations Section Manager
- Kris Philip
 - DWEHD Community Water Supply Section Manager
- Department of Health and Human Services Staff
 - Josh Rivera
 - Denise Stork-Phillips
 - Kris Schoenow
 - Lewis Roubal

Topics Covered Today

- Reminders & Resources
- EGLE Updates
- DHHS Updates
- Poll Questions
- Q&A Session

EGLE Update

- EGLE staff serving 1 layoff day per week through July 24 (half on Monday, half on Friday)
 - Permit review times will increase with the 20% cut in staff hours
 - Response time to inquiries may also increase
- In general, EGLE staff continue to telecommute
- In-person Visits:
 - DWEHD Field Operations Section (FOS) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) updated to include additional safety precautions to protect water supply and DWEDH staff during in-person visits.
 - DWEHD continues in-person visits in all districts using updated SOP.

EGLE Field Work COVID-19 Procedures

Some considerations in DWEHD's current field work procedures:

- Perform as much work as possible remotely
- Face coverings required by all parties in compliance with executive orders
- Verify lack of COVID-19 symptoms for water supply personnel and EGLE inspector ahead of visit
- Do not shake hands and practice social distancing
- Do not touch facility equipment and try to avoid using rest rooms and break rooms
- Avoid exchanging physical materials, including paper handouts
- If the water supply is not comfortable with the visit, written documentation requesting deferment of the visit must be provided

Operator Training & Certification Update

- **July 23, 2020 Exam Cancelled**
 - Current COVID trends and venue hosting capacities impacted the feasibility of hosting exams in July
 - Those approved to take the exam have been notified of cancellation
 - EGLE is evaluating options/protocols for hosting fall exams

Poll Question 2

EGLE Lab Reminders

- In-person sample delivery and container pick-up available with call-ahead scheduling. Visit Michigan.gov/EGLELab for [bottle drop-off/pick-up guidance](#)
- Mail/package delivery to the lab continue as usual (daily)
- Pick-up of mail from the lab has been reduced to 3 days/week
 - Possible delay in delivery of test kits. Recommend ordering kits early.
 - Possible delay in receipt of mailed results. Recommend providing email address on sample request form for faster receipt of results.

General Online Resources

- Michigan Webpage: Michigan.gov/Coronavirus
- EGLE CWS Webpage: Michigan.gov/CommunityWater, then "[COVID 19: Information for Water Operators](#)"
- EPA has established a website to assist water utilities: "[Water Utility Resources for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)"
- MIOSHA provides information for various sectors, including factsheets, posters, and other guidance: [MIOSHA COVID-19 Workplace Safety Guidance](#)



Water Quality Within Buildings

Resources for managing building water quality following periods of low or no water use:

- [EGLE: School Flushing Guidance](#)
- [CDC: Guidance for Building Water Systems](#)
- [EPA: Maintaining or Restoring Water Quality in Buildings...](#)
- [ASDWA: COVID-19 Resources for Building Water Systems](#)
- [AWWA: Coronavirus Information, incl. Return to Service Guidance](#)
- [ESPRI: Flushing Guidance for Periods of Low or No Use](#)
- [Purdue: Water Quality in Low Occupancy and Shutdown Buildings](#)

EPA COVID-19 Financial Impact Tool

- EPA has released a COVID-19 financial impact tool
- Helps utilities assess revenue, expenses, and cashflow
- Series of questions and a spreadsheet can compare 2020 monthly financial data with 2019 data
- <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/water-utility-covid-19-financial-impact-tool>

Proposed PFAS Rules Update

- Proposed PFAS rules establishing sampling and MCL requirements for 7 PFAS compounds are currently with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)
- JCAR has 15 session days to act on proposed rules
- 14 session days have passed; 1 day remaining
- Next potential session day is July 22
- Once last session day occurs (if JCAR takes no action), rules proceed to filing with Secretary of State
- Rules take effect 7 days after filing

Restoring Water Service

- [EO 2020-144](#): Restoring water service to occupied residences
 - Rescinds EO 2020-28
 - Extends requirement for restoration of water service through 12/31/2020
 - Requires restoration of service to occupied residences
 - Supplies that have not submitted a report meeting all requirements of Section 3 of EO 2020-28 must submit an update every 30 days until requirements met, submit information to EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov
 - Limited grant funding assistance available. Contact EGLE-RestartGrants@michigan.gov
 - Homeowner flushing guidance available at Michigan.gov/CommunityWater
 - EOs available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus under “Resources”



Water Assistance



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING



Senate Bill 690

Appropriates \$25 million for municipal water system assistance

Water Utility Assistance

Purpose	Retain water service for food assistance eligible residential households through December 1, 2020
Program	Reimburse water utility providers for forgiving arrearages* and fees incurred during the COVID-19 state of emergency and for providing a 25% discount on the total water bill for eligible customers, as funds allow.
Term	Eligible residential water service customers with new arrearages or fees after March 1, 2020 and during the COVID-19 state of emergency order.

Conditions on Program Participation



No water shutoffs for 90 days beyond when customer receives assistance



Forgive 25% of water bill sent to residential customer before December 1, 2020, reimbursed as funds allow



No collections and no action that affects residential customer's credit score



Notify client of discount provided and bill forgiveness



Benefits in addition to local water utility assistance program

* Maximum reimbursement for each arrearage is \$700.00

Implementation

Priority: Ensure timely & efficient delivery of relief with minimal action on part of residential customer

CAA Partnership

Partner with Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to be the implementing partner.

CAAs will handle:

1. reaching out to providers,
2. receiving and vetting eligibility of residential customers,
3. and disbursing funds.

Phase 1

- Reimburse arrearages and fees up to \$700 for each arrearage.

Phase 2

- Reimburse 25% discount on total water bill if funds are available.

Implementation

Priority: Ensure timely & efficient delivery of relief with minimal action on part of residential customer

July

- Webinar with water providers and Community Action Agencies will be held to outline the program details and answer questions

August

- MDHHS Contracts with CAAs will be finalized
- CAA Data Agreements with water providers will be finalized
- Data exchange completed to determine eligibility and coordinated with all partners

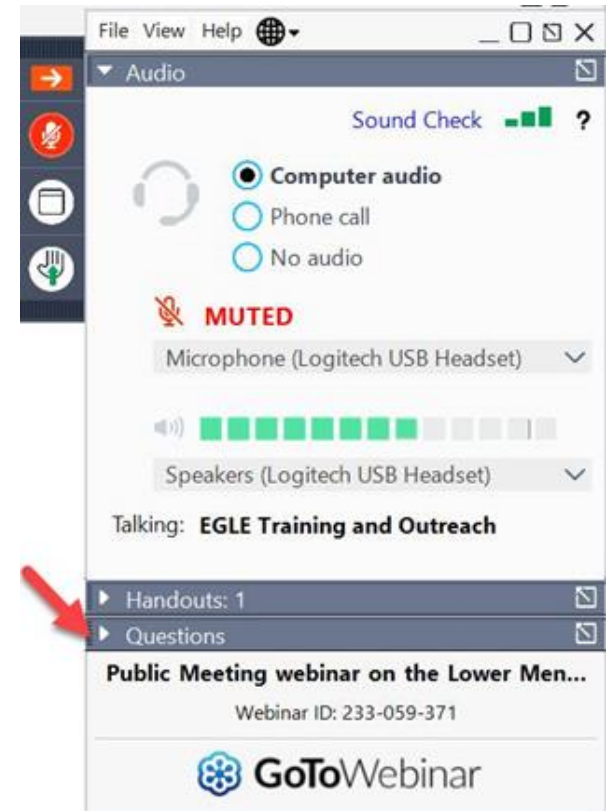
September

- Payments to water providers for eligible residential water customers on food assistance will be made
- MDHHS will evaluate any remaining grant balances and plan next steps

Poll Questions 3 & 4

Q&A Session

- Submit questions using the "Question" box in your Go To Webinar tool bar.
- Questions will be compiled and posted to the Community Water COVID-19 website as a Q&A document.
- Between meetings, general programmatic questions/issues can be sent to:
EGLE-DWEHD-CWS@Michigan.gov



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!