

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.”¹ 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.

¹ World Health Organization. 2020. Technical Brief. Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for the COVID-19 virus. March.

Website: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>. Reference number: WHO/2019-NcOV/IPC_WASH/2020.1

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

Michigan.gov

ALTERNATE LANGUAGES HOME MDHHS Q SEARCH

Coronavirus

RESOURCES ▾ PRESS RELEASES VIDEO UPDATES

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

STAY HOME.
STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.

Click here for a summary of the Stay Home, Stay Safe order.

- Executive Orders, Directives & FAQs

Read more about Michigan's response >

CLICK TO SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS UPDATES:

- COVID-19 Updates from MDHHS
- News Releases from the State Emergency Operations Center
- News Releases from the Executive Office of the Governor

Questions About COVID-19?

- 📞 Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136, 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✉ Email COVID19@michigan.gov 24/7. Emails will be answered 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MDHHS

Quick links

- Apply for unemployment benefits
- Apply for assistance with health insurance, food, and other needs
- Find resources in your local community
- Locate your local school meal pickup site
- Resources for small businesses
- Contact the U.S. Disaster Distress Hotline for 24/7 crisis counseling

For Residents & Communities

For Health Care Professionals

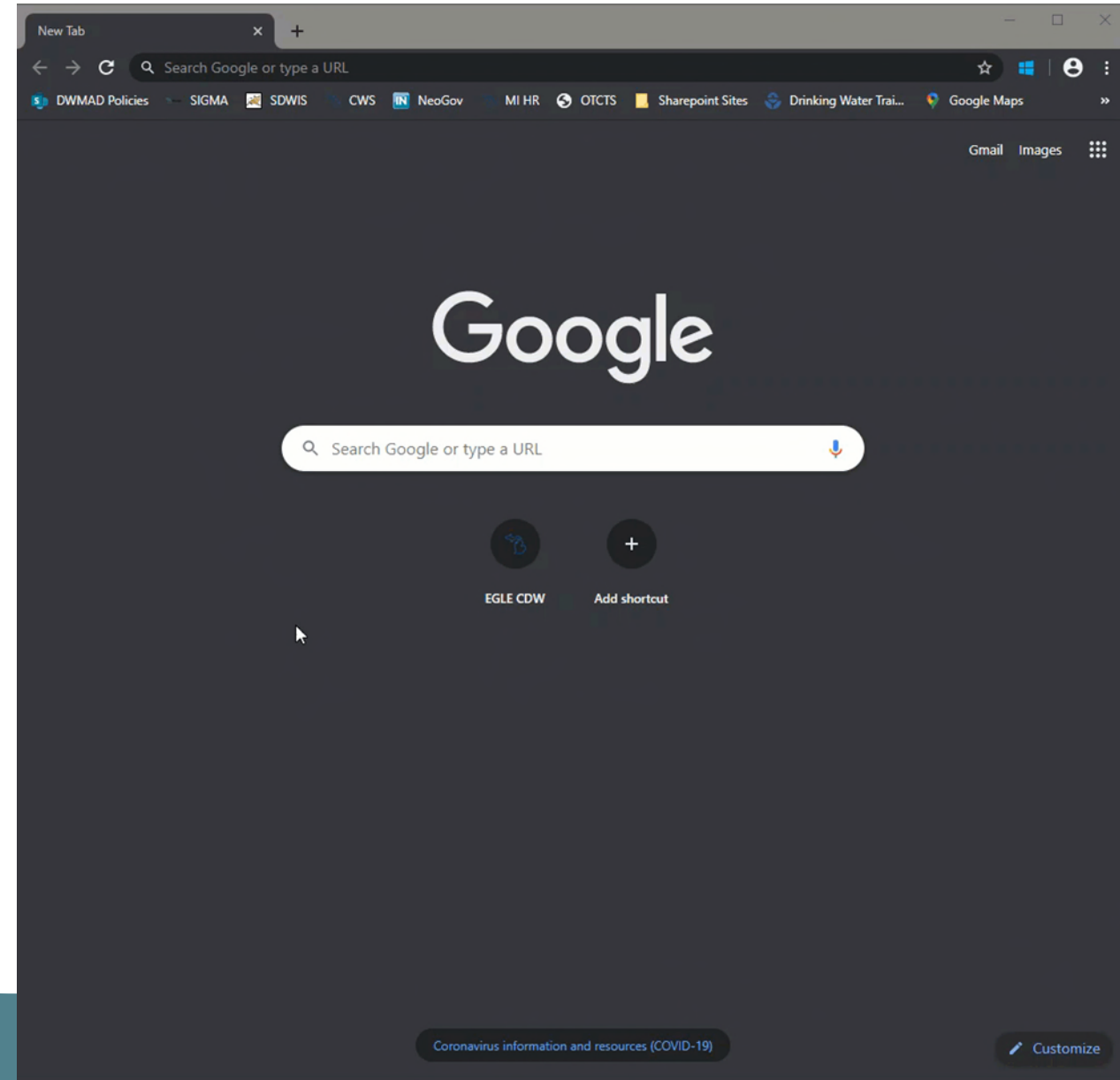
For Childcare

For Employers & Workers

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)

The screenshot shows the EGLE website with a navigation bar at the top containing links for EGLE, Contacts, Permits, Online Services, Programs, Locations, and MI.gov. Below the navigation bar is the EGLE logo and the text "MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY". A search bar is located to the right of the logo. Below the logo is a horizontal menu with tabs for ABOUT EGLE, AIR, LAND, WASTE, WATER, and SUSTAINABILITY. The "WATER" tab is selected. On the left side of the page, there is a vertical menu with links for Great Lakes, Drinking Water, Abandoned Water Wells, Community Water Supply, Contamination Investigation, Water Wellhead Protection, Water Well Construction, Lakes & Streams, Wetlands, MIWaters, Wastewater, Water Permits, and Water Management. The "Community Water Supply" link is highlighted. The main content area displays the breadcrumb "EGLE / WATER / DRINKING WATER / COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY" and the heading "COVID-19: Information for Water Operators". Below the heading is a paragraph stating that the webpage will be updated as additional information becomes available. A second paragraph explains that maintaining a safe and reliable drinking water supply is essential for protecting public health and that EGLE is committed to assisting with these efforts. Below this is the heading "EGLE is Open for Business" and a paragraph updated 3/23/2020 stating that EGLE staff continue to maintain operations and are available during this event. A list of links follows, including "Community Drinking Water Staff Contact Information", "EGLE Laboratory – Operational Status and Other Information", and "Operator Training and Certification – Exam Updates, Online CEC Opportunities, and Other Information". The next heading is "General Information about COVID-19" and a paragraph stating that these links provide information regarding COVID-19 in general and as it relates to drinking water. A list of links follows, including "CDC: Water Transmission and COVID-19", "EPA: Coronavirus and Drinking Water and Wastewater", "AWWA: Coronavirus and Water", "ASDWA: COVID 19 Resources and State Responses", "Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus Information", "Michigan's Coronavirus Response", and "WaterOnline: Coronavirus - What Treatment Professionals Need to Know". The final heading is "Ensuring Continuity of Service" and a paragraph explaining that a concern for water supplies during this outbreak is the potential for insufficient staffing as a result of employee illness or absence. A final paragraph states that users should review their water supply's Emergency Response Plans and ensure water supply personnel know their roles and how to manage emergency situations. A list of links follows, including "EPA: Emergency Response for Drinking Water and Wastewater Utilities", "CISA: Information & Updates on COVID-19", and "CISA: Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response Guidance".



GREAT LAKES **Water Infrastructure** CONFERENCE

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

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!