

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

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Weekly Program Update

April 2, 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



Post your questions in the Q/A panel on the right side of your screen



The screenshot shows a user interface for a live event Q&A session. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'Need help?' link, a 'Leave' button, and a red circle highlighting a chat icon. Below this, there are icons for help, settings, and information. The main title is 'Live event Q&A' with a question mark icon and a close button. There are three tabs: 'Featured' (highlighted with a blue border), 'My questions', and 'Most recent'. A message from a 'Moderator' at 2:00 PM reads: 'Please submit your questions here. We will have a Q&A session at the end of the presentation and a Q&A document will be produced on our website with any we are unable to get to during the presentation.' At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled 'Ask a question'.

# Topics Covered Today

- Reminders and Resources
- Answers to Last Week's Questions
- Interpreting the Executive Orders
- EO 2020-28 Restoring Water Service requirements
- EGLE's Enforcement Discretion Process for COVID-19
- Q&A Session

# General Reminders

- EGLE staff are working remotely and available to assist you
  - Email & cell phone most efficient; desk phone voicemail being checked
  - *Non-critical* site visits have been suspended
- Operator Certification
  - May exams cancelled, being rescheduled
  - 160+ online courses available for CECs ([Michigan.gov/EGLEoperatortraining](https://Michigan.gov/EGLEoperatortraining))
- EGLE Laboratory is open ([Michigan.gov/EGLElab](https://Michigan.gov/EGLElab))
  - Shipped sample delivery only; no in-person delivery

# General Reminders (cont.)

- Michigan Webpage: [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus)
  - Executive Orders
  - Health Information
  - Recommended Actions
- EGLE CWS Webpage: [Michigan.gov/CommunityWater](https://Michigan.gov/CommunityWater), then "COVID 19: Information for Water Operators"
  - Status of EGLE services
  - General COVID-19 Info
  - Continuity of Service
  - Restoring Water Service
  - Sampling
  - Other Resources

# Q&A from Last Week

- Q: Has EGLE considered modifications to the required number of bacteriological samples a system needs to collect?
  - A: EGLE is not currently considering a reduction to the total number of samples required. However, some water systems will need to adjust their sampling sites due to access issues during the pandemic. In cooperation with the district engineer, sampling sites can be temporarily changed, and the system can rebalance the number of sites versus the frequency of collection.
- Q: Has EGLE considered modifications to the sampling requirements related to lead and copper?
  - A: Not at this time. It is recommended that water supplies prepare for sampling while the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order is in place. Actions such as ordering bottles, contacting sampling participants, and reviewing sampling plans can be done now in preparation for sampling within a potentially shortened window of time.

# Q&A from Last Week

- Q: Is the restoring water service guidance available on the EGLE website a good resource to provide after a water main break?
  - A: Yes, the guidance on [Flushing Your House Plumbing System When Water Services are Restored](#) would be a good resource for customers after a water main break. Some similar concerns exist when pressure is lost in the system as those experienced when water has sat idle for an extended period of time.
- Q: Is there a recommendation regarding operator staffing? Should staffing be reduced to the absolute minimum?
  - A: Water system operators are critical to ensuring people are able to comply with the social distancing recommendations and the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order. Water supplies should consider staffing levels and protocols to determine the best way to keep their staff safe while providing this critical service to their community. The reduction of staff and limiting physical interactions are tools that should be evaluated.

# Interpretation of the Executive Orders (EO)

- EOs available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus)
- Review associated guidance/FAQs on the same site
- Consult with your local legal counsel regarding how this applies to your community

# EO 2020-28: Restoring water service to occupied residences during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Requires restoration of service to occupied residences
- Supplies that have conducted shut-offs within last year must submit required information to [EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov) by April 12, 2020
- Limited grant funding assistance available
- Homeowner flushing guidance available at [Michigan.gov/CommunityWater](https://Michigan.gov/CommunityWater)

# Enforcement Discretion

## EPA Memo: COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program

“Public water systems have a heightened responsibility to protect public health because unsafe drinking water can lead to serious illnesses and access to clean water for drinking and handwashing is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the EPA has heightened expectations for public water systems. **The EPA expects operators of such systems to continue normal operations and maintenance as well as required sampling to ensure the safety of our drinking water supplies.** The EPA expects laboratories performing analysis for water systems to continue to provide timely analysis of samples and results.”

# Enforcement Discretion (cont.)

Regulated entities are expected to maintain regulatory compliance.

However, EGLE understands current circumstances may create challenges.

- Process created for considering extenuating circumstances
- Visit [Michigan.gov/EGLE](https://Michigan.gov/EGLE) and click on "[EGLE Establishes Process for Handling Enforcement Discretion Due to COVID-19](#)"
- Review the process and submit requests for discretion to the email address provided

# 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.
- Between meetings, general programmatic questions/issues can be sent to: [EGLE-DWEHD-CWS@Michigan.gov](mailto: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!



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