

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

Weekly Program Update

April 9, 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 purple button labeled 'Ask a question'.

Topics Covered Today

- EGLE Weekly Updates
- Reminders & Resources
- Executive Orders & Enforcement Discretion
- Cross Connection Control Program Implementation
- 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 postponed; **Save the Date: likely rescheduled to July 23, 2020**
 - 150+ online courses available for CECs (Michigan.gov/EGLEoperatortraining)
- EGLE Laboratory is open (Michigan.gov/EGLElab)
 - Shipped sample delivery only; no in-person delivery

Resources

- Michigan Webpage: Michigan.gov/Coronavirus
 - Executive Orders
 - Health Information
 - Recommended Actions
- EGLE CWS Webpage: 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

Resources (cont.)

- EPA has established a website to assist water utilities: [“Water Utility Resources for the COVID-19 Pandemic”](#)
- CDC information regarding ensuring the safety of building water systems and devices after a prolonged shutdown: [“Guidance for Building Water Systems”](#)

Executive Orders (EO)

Interpretation of the Executive Orders (EO)

- EOs available at 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 by April 12, 2020
- Limited grant funding assistance available
- Homeowner flushing guidance available at 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 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

Cross Connection Control Program Challenges

- Building access
- Closed businesses
- Water utility staff unavailable
- Third party tester availability
- Economic impacts to customers
- Obstacles to shutting off water service

Cross Connection Control Program Implementation

- Backflow prevention is imperative, especially during a pandemic
- EGLE expects communities to continue meeting Act 399 requirements including Part 14
- Balance safety of water system with reducing spread of virus
- Determination of critical infrastructure workers must be made on local level
- Document situations where required activities cannot be met

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

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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