

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

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Weekly Program Update

April 16, 2020

# Q & A Panel

- Eric Oswald
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- George Krisztian
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- Brian Thurston
  - DWEHD Field Operations Section Manager
- Kris Philip
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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' (selected), '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
- Answers to Last Week's Questions
- EGLE Updates
- Other Updates
- 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; **Rescheduled to July 23, 2020 (confirmed)**
  - Operator certifications that would have expired 4/15 have been extended to 7/15
  - 150+ 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

# Resources

- Michigan Webpage: [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus)
- EGLE CWS Webpage: [Michigan.gov/CommunityWater](https://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](#)"
- CDC Guidance on Safe Practices for Exposed Critical Infrastructure Workers: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html)

# Q&A from Last Week

Q: Should cross connection program activities continue under the Stay Home, Stay Safe EO?

A: Backflow prevention is imperative, especially during a pandemic. EGLE expects communities to continue meeting Act 399 requirements including Part 14. Supplies must balance the safety of their water system with reducing spread of the virus.

Q: Are there grants available for water line replacements under the EO 2020-28?

A: The [Water Restart Grant Program](#) provides limited funding to assist communities with restoring water service to homes. Communities interested in accessing the funding should email [EGLE-RestartGrants@michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-RestartGrants@michigan.gov).

# Q&A from Last Week (cont.)

Q: Are you aware of any utilities in the State that have either implemented or has a plan to implement shelter-in-place for water treatment plant staff?

A: EGLE is not aware of any water systems in Michigan currently sheltering-in-place.

Q: During COVID-19, can a system delay sending lead service line notifications to homes determined to be served by, or likely served by, a lead service line?

A: The requirement to notify residents within 30 days that their home is served by a lead service line is still effect. This is a matter of transparency. Homeowners should receive, in a timely manner, the information they need to protect themselves from potential exposure to lead in drinking water.



# Q&A from Last Week (cont.)

Q: Will the fall operator certification exam date remain the same?

A: There is currently no plan to change the fall certification exam date scheduled for November 4, 2020.

Q: Are there currently any delays in processing certification renewal applications?

A: Drinking water certification renewals continue to be processed. Processing may be slightly slower than usual due to less frequent processing/pick-up of physical mail.

# EGLE Updates

- EGLE is prioritizing permits for change in chemicals due to supply chain shortages
- EGLE is piloting sanitary surveys via teleconference and/or video conference for systems with limited or no facilities
- If you need PPE, reach out to your County Emergency Operations Center

# EGLE Updates (cont.)

## EGLE Drinking Water Laboratory Updates

- 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 analysis request form. Email reporting continues as normal.
- Deliveries to the lab continue as usual (daily)
- Not currently allowing sample drop-off. Consult with your local carrier service (U.S. Post Office, FedEx, etc.) prior to sampling to ensure sample delivery within required hold times.
- As always, it is recommended that sampling be conducted early in the monitoring period.

# Other Updates

- Per U.S. Department of Energy: Linde Gas has indicated they have an abundance of CO2 which could be made available to the water sector.
- Per U.S. EPA: All 50 States now have National Disaster Declarations for the COVID-19 pandemic making them eligible for FEMA Public Assistance Grants (aka Stafford Act Funds) for “emergency protective measures.”
  - This includes work such as disinfection of eligible public facilities, emergency medical transport, medical sheltering, movement of supplies and persons, purchase of personal protective equipment, and government force account overtime cost, among others.
  - So far 9 States have requested and been obligated Public Assistance funds, including two R5 States – Illinois and Ohio.

## Other Updates (cont.)

- EPA Office of Water (OW) is working with DHS on prioritizing the water sector for PPE. A water sector partner workgroup (including AWWA, WEF, ISAC, NRWA, RCAP) is collecting information on the type and amount of PPE needed and why it is needed.
- As part of the \$2T CARES Act, \$150B is for States and local governments to cover additional expenses due to COVID-19. Applications for this money are due April 17.

# Executive Orders (EO)

## 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 were required to submit information to [EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov) by April 12, 2020
- Supplies that have not yet restored service to all occupied homes must submit an update every 30 days thereafter
- Limited grant funding assistance available. Contact [EGLE-RestartGrants@michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-RestartGrants@michigan.gov)
- 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!



# GREAT LAKES **Water Infrastructure** CONFERENCE

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**[Michigan.gov/EGLEevents](https://Michigan.gov/EGLEevents)**