

COVID-19 FACTSHEET

Great Lakes Rural Community Assistance Program



DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER PLANNING FOR A PANDEMIC

“The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.”

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

Resources are available in our
Pandemic Planning Toolkit at
www.glracap.org.

KNOW

- The latest COVID-19 information from reputable sources such as the USEPA and CDC, along with state and local health authorities.
- What you can do to keep yourself and your family healthy along with preventing the spread of the virus.

PLAN

- Update contingency plans as soon as possible. Verify contact information for staff, vendors, suppliers, contractors, and federal, state, and local agencies.
- Develop a list of critical staff members necessary to operate water & wastewater systems.
- Plan for operator absenteeism along with chemical and material shortages.
- Plan for short term reductions in revenues.

Great Lakes RCAP is a program of the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership serving Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

RCAP thanks its funders for continuing support of our programs providing free technical assistance and training to water and wastewater systems with service populations under 10,000.



For more information or technical assistance contact your nearest RCAP Rural Development Specialist. Visit us at www.glracap.org for our staff directory, or call 1-800-775-9767 and ask for our Community Development Dept.

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“In the event of a severe pandemic, absenteeism would increase from illness, the fear of infection and the need to care for ill family members. This absenteeism could affect drinking water and wastewater system operators and their capability to operate and maintain their systems adequately, thereby increasing the risks to public health.”

Source: <https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Coronavirus>

**STAY FLEXIBLE. OPERATIONAL
PLANS MAY NEED TO CHANGE
ABRUPTLY AND FREQUENTLY.**

PREPARE

- Inventory water and wastewater treatment chemicals, supplies, and materials.
- Order additional chemicals, supplies, and materials as storage space permits.
- Join your local Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) or enter into mutual aid agreements with neighboring utility systems.
- Hold a Table Top Exercise (TTX).
- Consider changes to water and wastewater treatment process to conserve chemicals, supplies, and materials.

IMPLEMENT

- Network with industry experts to stay informed with trends.
- Make changes to treatment processes to conserve materials and predict potential outcomes of those changes.
- Regularly communicate with utility customers.
- Meet with stakeholders regularly to address potential problems before they arise.
- Strategies to continue to bill customers and collect revenues.