



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Water Supply News

## Environmental Services

- [Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certificate Renewal](#)
- [Celebrate Iowa Environmental Laboratories - Keeping Iowans Safe during COVID-19](#)
- [EPA Webinar: Risk and Resilience Assessments – Lessons Learned](#)
- [EPA's Incident Action Checklist – Pandemic Incidents](#)
- [A note on Iowa DNR and COVID-19](#)

## Drinking Water and Wastewater Operator Certificate Renewal

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is reminding all drinking water and wastewater operators that their certificates expire on June 30, 2021. They have until March 31, 2021 to earn their required continuing education credits in order to renew in 2021. The IDNR is aware that conferences, workshop and all “in person” training was postponed or cancelled in mid-March and will likely not resume until June 1st. Fortunately, this was not our renewal year, so we have the time to assess the continuing education opportunities for conferences and workshops. The new “normal” for operator training and conferences may look different but there will still be plenty of accessible training readily available over the next year.

During this time of quarantine and social distancing, there are still many good quality online and virtual training courses offered through our community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. Please continue to monitor the [Iowa DNR's operator certification training calendar](#) and your email for virtual and future “in-person” opportunities.

Contact Laurie Sharp at 515/725-0284 or [laurie.sharp@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:laurie.sharp@dnr.iowa.gov) with any questions.

## Celebrate Iowa Environmental Laboratories - Keeping Iowans Safe during COVID-19

Iowa has 40 municipal and commercial environmental analytical laboratories that analyze drinking water samples. Lab results inform the operators and regulators if our water is safe to drink.

“Environmental labs play a key role in protecting public health,” said Kathy Lee, with the DNR’s Laboratory Certification Program. “Like other essential services, these testing facilities have stepped up to the pandemic challenge, and we should celebrate their commitment.”

Environmental labs, like many businesses, have changed how they operate to limit personal contact. Laboratories have split their staff into shifts, enforced social distancing, and have added disinfection procedures for the building and samples delivered to the lab. Some labs are making their own disinfectants.

Most commercial labs also analyze samples from wastewater, landfill leachate, and underground storage tank leaks. Many municipal labs analyze wastewater onsite at their treatment plants. So far, there have been no reports of labs needing to shut down or being unable to analyze samples.

## **EPA Webinar: Risk and Resilience Assessments – Lessons Learned**

*From ASDWA Weekly Update, April 23, 2020*

“EPA is hosting an upcoming webinar on lessons learned regarding AWIA risk and resilience assessments. This webinar will offer first-hand insights to medium and small-size systems in completing risk and resilience assessments and emergency response plans. A large water utility that achieved AWIA compliance with the March 31, 2020 deadline will also be sharing their strategy. Participants will learn how to access the latest tools, resources and guidance to assist their water utility in complying with the requirements of AWIA.”

**Date:** Thursday, May 28

**Time:** noon – 1:00 pm (CDT)

[Registration](#)

## **EPA’s Incident Action Checklist – Pandemic Incidents**

EPA has developed a new Incident Action Checklist for use during a pandemic. This fillable checklist follows the same format as the other incident checklists, and there is a link to it on the [DNR’s Disaster Assistance website](#), on the COVID-19 tab.

## **A note on Iowa DNR and COVID-19**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In another effort to reduce further the spread of COVID-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

[Full list of DNR’s online services](#)

[Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by COVID-19](#)

[Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to COVID-19](#)

We thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling 515-725-8200.